

Fate of Russian Duma In Vote on Kiriyenko

Communist Leader Opposes Yeltsin's Choice,
But Others Fear Dissolution of Parliament

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — On the eve of a climactic vote, the Russian Communist Party, the largest bloc in the lower house of Parliament, pledged Thursday to again oppose President Boris Yeltsin's nominee for prime minister. But there was a growing chorus of voices urging a vote for the nominee, Sergei Kiriyenko, to avoid dissolution of the chamber.

Mr. Yeltsin can disband the State Duma, call new parliamentary elections and unilaterally name his prime minister if Parliament rejects his choice of Mr. Kiriyenko on Friday, in its third vote on the issue. Such a dissolution would also mean that Russia would be without a Parliament for several months and Mr. Yeltsin could rule by decree.

Mr. Kiriyenko was rejected on two earlier votes, and lawmakers said the coming ballot would be close. He needs 226 votes in the 450-member chamber to be confirmed. He got only 143 votes for his candidacy on April 10 and 115 votes last Friday.

"I am going to vote against disbandment of the State Duma, and that is the main thing," said Nikolai Ryzhkov, leader of the People's Power bloc, a nationalist group with 39 seats that is expected to vote for Mr. Kiriyenko.

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Mr. Schroeder speaking in Parliament on Thursday as Mr. Kohl listened.

In Bonn, a Euro Straddle

Schroeder Pro and Con as Bundestag Votes 'Yes'

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Gerhard Schroeder, the opposition candidate for chancellor, used his first parliamentary debate with the incumbent, Helmut Kohl, to appeal Thursday to German voters about Europe's single currency and to endorse the historic project at the same time.

Although Mr. Schroeder dedicated most of his half-hour speech to decrying "social dumping" and the common currency's potential threat to German jobs and affluence, he fell in line with the formal pro-euro position of his Social Democratic Party.

The conditional endorsement helped the Bundestag end the debate with a vote of overwhelming approval, 575 to 35, for Germany to join the euro's launch on Jan. 1.

By straddling the issue, Mr. Schroeder opened himself to charges from Mr. Kohl's allies of having it both ways.

"It is a bit difficult, you know, to endure in a speech someone who simply can be for something and against something, and indeed for exact opposites," Wolfgang Schaueble, Mr. Kohl's parliamentary leader, responded in direct rebuttal to Mr. Schroeder.

The Bundestag voted little more than a week before the European Union summit meeting on May 1 and 2 to confirm the 11 countries that will start the new currency. Germany's vote followed one on Wednesday by the French National

Assembly to support currency integration.

Germany's second chamber, the Bundesrat, will vote Friday and is expected to endorse the plan by a similarly wide margin.

As political rivalries intensify ahead of the national vote Sept. 27, the Bundestag debate set into sharp contrast the basic economic and ideological differences between the two men who are competing to occupy Bonn's chancellery.

It was the first time that Mr. Schroeder spoke in Parliament on the euro since his party gave him the nomination this month, prompting the daily Bild-Zeitung newspaper to run a banner headline: "Today the first duel."

While Mr. Kohl's speech Thursday was meant to calm anxieties by evoking optimism over the euro's benefits for future generations, Mr. Schroeder bluntly solicited what some Germans call the "silent majority" who oppose the pan-European currency. Polls show that more than 60 percent of Germans remain opposed to giving up the Deutsche mark.

Mr. Schroeder, who commands a strong lead over Mr. Kohl in public opinion polls, said that Germans were entitled to hear about the problems they face when the euro unleashes increased competition across Europe.

The Social Democrats are "not afraid to speak for the interests of German workers in Europe," Mr. Schroeder said.

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Paris Denies Sabotage of Serb's Arrest

French Officer's Contacts With Karadzic Disputed

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — The French government denied "categorically" on Thursday that one of its military officer's contacts in Bosnia with Radovan Karadzic had compromised an allied plan to capture the Serbian war-crimes suspect last August.

The French presidential palace and Foreign Ministry maintained near-total public silence on the matter, first reported Thursday in The Washington Post. Instead, the government offered a terse Defense Ministry communiqué as an official response.

The communiqué confirmed only that "a French officer maintained various contacts consonant with his orders."

"As soon as the course of these contacts could have appeared questionable," it said, "this officer was immediately given a new assignment in France."

The Post report said that, according to senior U.S. and diplomatic officials, American and allied military forces abruptly shelved plans for an operation late last summer to capture Mr. Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president who has been indicted for war crimes, after Washington discovered that a French officer had held secret meetings with Mr. Karadzic.

The series of clandestine meetings convinced U.S. officials that key details of the arrest plans might have been leaked directly to the fugitive Serb leader by the officer, jeopardizing the operation and the lives of NATO troops, The Post said.

French officials later acknowledged that the meetings occurred but said the officer had been acting on his own, and they promised that he would be court-martialed, according to the Post account. Although the officer had been transferred to Paris, no punishment had been meted out against him, and Washington learned recently that none was planned, The Post reported.

[The Clinton administration praised France on Thursday for its cooperation in peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia but did not attempt to refute reports that an operation to capture Mr. Karadzic last summer had been called off after a French military officer met secretly with the accused war criminal, The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"We do not believe it is wise to discuss operational planning," said James Robin, the State Department spokesman. He referred reporters to the French government after saying France



Radovan Karadzic in a 1994 photo.

and the United States "have worked extremely well together."

Several senior U.S. officials said the episode had left them wary of trusting the French military to cooperate fully in any future secret operation to capture Mr. Karadzic, The Post reported.

On Thursday, the French Defense Ministry repeated the government's historic support for bringing Mr. Karadzic and all other indicted war criminals from the Balkan conflict to justice at the

See BOSNIA, Page 5

3 Palestinian Brothers, 3 Roads Taken

Their Family's Story Mirrors Their People's During Israel's 50 Years

By Ethan Bronner
New York Times Service

REHOVOT, Israel — At first, Ibrahim Shikaki is lost amid the widened roads, bowling alley and Toyota garage off Menachem Begin Avenue. But having spent his first 20 years here in what was once the village of Zarnouga, he insists that even at age 70 he will gain his bearings. At the intersection of streets named for Israelis who fought in the 1967 and 1973 wars, he says: "Turn right. The mosque used to be that way."

It still is, up a dirt road, crumbling and fenced off, with weeds climbing a steel door that now bears a Star of David. The sight of the dome from which Mr. Shikaki used to call for prayers produces tales of his imam father, the surviving mulberry tree elicits memories of his sister, and the few remaining houses from his era bring to

his tongue the names of their former owners — Ahmed Nijm here, Hassem Qassab there.

The Shikakis farmed this land for generations, cultivating wheat and apricots, oranges and cucumbers. In May 1948, they fled the fighting that led to the establishment of Israel and were never permitted back. Their house was demolished and their land given to Jews. Today their former village is on the outskirts of the Israeli city of Rehovot, and the clan lives as refugees in the sand-choked, litter-strewn town of Rafah at the southern edge of the Gaza Strip.

The last half-century has not been an easy one for Mr. Shikaki, scion of a respected village family eking out a living as a day laborer in the Jewish state. In many ways, his story and that of three of his eight children, a founder of Islamic Holy War, a professor, and businessman, is that of the Palestinian

people, a saga of humiliation and fury but also one of emerging accommodation and rebirth.

Israel is observing its 50th anniversary, celebrating the vibrant and democratic regional superpower established upon the ashes of Nazi genocide. But for the Palestinian Arabs, the anniversary marks the Nakba, or catastrophe.

The Arabs had rejected the 1947 United Nations plan to partition British-controlled Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, and when Israel declared its independence the next spring, five Arab countries attacked. By the time the fighting ended, Israel had conquered far more land than had been allotted to it under the plan, and some 700,000 people — half the Palestinian Arab population at the time — had fled or were driven out. Those who

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New Financial Alert Rattles South Korea

As Debts Mount, Experts See A More Severe Crisis Ahead

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — South Korea risks a second financial crunch that could eclipse the crisis that began late last year when the nation came close to bankruptcy, financial experts warned Thursday.

Corporate debts are mounting rapidly, according to specialists here, while the government lags behind in carrying out far-reaching reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for putting together a rescue package of nearly \$60 billion last December.

The possibility of a credit crunch can lead to a default risk in Korea," said Kim Jun Kyung, one of the authors of an extensive analysis of the economy released by the Korea Development Institute, a government research institute.

Separately, in a report released Thursday, the Asian Development Bank said it expected the economies of South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia to shrink this year, slowing growth around the world.

The bank's annual Asian Development Outlook report also warned that speculators might soon attempt to devalue the Hong Kong dollar and the Chinese yuan on foreign-exchange markets. "The success with which the authorities defend these exchange rates will have important implications for the recovery of the Asian economies," the bank said.

Additional coordinated assistance from the world's big economies and international financial institutions will very likely be required to nurse the economies of Southeast Asia back to health, the report said.

"Failure to address the crisis will not only exacerbate Southeast Asia and Korea's economic problems, but will also undermine the growth momentum in the rest of the world," the bank said.

South Korea's gross domestic product will fall by 1 percent for 1998, the bank's forecast, while the gross domestic

products of Thailand and Indonesia will decline by 3 percent. Those figures compare with forecasts of increases ranging from 2.4 percent for the Philippines, to 5 percent for Vietnam, and 6.7 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively, for India and China, according to the bank.

Because South Korea is an industrial nation that manufactures a wide range of sophisticated products for world markets, officials here had hoped to avoid comparisons with Thailand and Indonesia, the two less-advanced Southeast Asian countries hardest hit by the regional economic downturn.

South Korea's total debts, according to the report by the Korea Development Institute, are rising steadily as more than 3,300 small and mid-sized companies declare bankruptcy every month. Those debts now come to about 1,000 trillion won (\$727.81 billion). That figure includes more than \$150 billion owed to foreign banks, while nonperforming loans are at least 48 trillion won, according to the report.

"The debt situation has been deteriorating, and if it continues there is no way to get out of this crisis," warned Jwa Sung Hee, president of the Korea Economic Research Institute, an arm of the

See KOREA, Page 4

The Dollar			
New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.7983	1.7935	
Pound	1.685	1.6721	
Yen	130.145	130.40	
FF	6.03	6.0145	
The Dow			
	Thursday close	previous close	
	-33.39	9143.33	9178.72
S&P 500			
change	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
	-10.92	1119.58	1130.50

Belgian Ministers Resign Over Prisoner's Breakout

Key Suspect in Child-Sex Ring Is Back in Custody

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

BRUSSELS — Two senior government ministers resigned to take responsibility for the brief escape Thursday from pretrial custody of a key suspect in a deadly child-sex ring whose activities shocked Belgium in 1996.

The resignations of Interior Minister Johan Van Landuyt and Justice Minister Stefaan De Clerck were announced by Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene in Parliament.

Mr. Dehaene promised a full inquiry into the events Thursday but insisted there was no evidence that the convict had been aided in his failed bid for freedom.

Mr. Dehaene said the fact that Marc Dutroux, 42, could disarm a policeman and flee from the courthouse in Neufchateau, 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Brussels earlier Thursday, was "inadmissible."

Mr. Dutroux, who been taken to the courtroom in Neufchateau to consult prosecution files in his case, escaped after overpowering the solitary policeman charged with guarding him. After knocking the officer to the floor, Mr. Dutroux seized his gun and burst out of the building.

Waving the weapon, he forced a passing motorist to stop and hand over the keys before taking flight at high speed, shortly after 3:00 P.M. It later was revealed that the gun had not been loaded.

Mr. Dutroux was apprehended at 6:35 P.M. after being spotted running through a forest about 12 kilometers from Neufchateau by a forest ranger. Police were alerted and sealed off the area. Mr. Dutroux, who had hijacked at least two cars at gunpoint during his escape, did not resist arrest.

Mr. Dutroux faces charges of abducting six young girls and abusing and killing four of them in mid-1996. He was arrested Aug. 13, 1996, four days before police freed two girls from a dungeon in a house of his near Charleroi, 40 kilometers south of Brussels.

Mr. Dutroux was arrested with a number of others, including his wife, Michelle Martin, who are also in pretrial custody.

The escape Thursday highlighted key findings of two parliamentary investigations into his child abuse case: The Belgian police are either so inept or so corrupt that criminals like Mr. Dutroux can operate unhindered.

Mr. Dutroux received a 13-year sentence in 1989 for raping five girls but was released after a few years.

Despite many clues, an investigation in 1995 and 1996 failed to link him to the kidnappings of the young girls.

At one point, a police search of his home did not find two 8-year-old girls who were being held prisoner in his



James Earl Ray in 1991.

James Earl Ray, Assassin, Is Dead

James Earl Ray, 70, the petty criminal who confessed to assassinating the civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., then recanted and spent decades seeking a trial, died of liver failure Thursday in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Ray, who was serving a 99-year prison sentence for the 1968 murder, argued that he had been coerced into pleading guilty to Dr. King's murder. Page 12.

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Cameroon	1.600 CFA Qatar
Egypt	5.50 Reunion
France	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia
Gabon	1.100 CFA Senegal
Italy	2.800 Lire Spain
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA Tunisia
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E.
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. Mil. (Eur)

As Havel Falters, So Does Czechs' Mood

By Peter S. Green
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — "Fear!" shouted the cover of the leading newsmagazine, Týden, this week, in a fair reflection of the national mood.

President Vaclav Havel's doctors may fear for their patient's health, but his countrymen fear as much for themselves and their nation as they do for their leader.

With parliamentary elections set for June and the end last year of the economic miracle that gave Czechs low unemployment and the highest living standard in the former Com-

monist bloc, the country is nervous. The president's health leads every news bulletin, and the front pages carry detailed assessments of his condition as he lies sedated on a respirator in an Austrian hospital, recovering from surgery on a perforated bowel that took 35 centimeters (14 inches) of his intestine and nearly took his life. In the past year and a half he survived first a cancer that cost him a third of a lung, then a serious bout of pneumonia.

The Czech president is largely a figurehead, using his perch in Hradcany Castle, high above Prague, as a bully pulpit to nudge his countrymen toward the values of democracy. But it is his

role as the country's political referee that makes him so important.

With his health failing and his doctors saying Mr. Havel may be out of commission until June, Czechs have begun the unthinkable: talking about a successor.

"The Game for the Presidency Begins," said a headline in the tabloid Blesk. A member of Parliament from the party of the ousted prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, said Mr. Havel ought to resign.

"The president is ill almost all the time, and it is clear that work tires him

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Creams for a Lighter Skin Capture the Asian Market

Even today, many Indian parents say it is more

sire for whiter skin in this decade. It is easier to let a local company pave the way in a product category that generates controversy, executives of multinationals said. The Philippine market, for instance, was spurred by Metro Laboratories Inc., a firm in Manila that has made a splash — and millions of dollars — since it introduced its Block & White lightening line in 1994.

These are among the many cream products now being sold in India to lighten skin color.

Emboldened by the success of the cream, the direct-marketing company is planning to add more skin lighteners to its Indian portfolio, even though Beiersdorf AG's Nivea and other companies have also entered the fray.

Over the past five years, Hindustan Lever has been exporting Fair & Lovely to Malaysia and Sri Lanka as well as to North African countries such as Morocco.

"Everybody is hung up about being fair," said Nina Bhatnagar, an Avon seller in New

protests this year outside the Baghdad headquarters of the UN team charged with destroying Iraq's major weapons systems. The sanctions cannot be lifted until the commission declares Iraq free of prohibited arms.

other governments' secrets, murderous plots or inducements of others to treason

side backing to Mr. Yilmaz's minority government, insisted on early elections in return for his party's continued support. He said a new government would be

side backing to Mr. Yilmaz's minority government, insisted on early elections in return for his party's continued support. He said a new government would be

Although Mr. Baykal insisted the party voted for an inquiry as a matter of principle, newspaper reports main-

CALAIS, France (AP) — Ferry service across the English Channel resumed from this northern port Thursday.

South Korean Transportation Ministry said. (Reuters)

after reports that skinhead groups had attacked Asian and African students in the Russian capital. (Reuters)

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THE AMERICAS

Judging the 'Quo' Factor In Sexual Harassment

Supreme Court Case Could Affect Clinton

By Joan Biskupic
Washington Post Service

CHICAGO — Kimberly Ellerth was 23, fresh out of college and recently married when she landed a prized marketing job with Burlington Industries in its Chicago office. But eventually, her dream job became unbearable, she said, after a boss began making sexual advances toward her.

The supervisor would accompany Mrs. Ellerth on business trips, and once in a hotel lounge, after ogling her body, he allegedly said, "You know, Kim, I could make your life very hard or very easy at Burlington."

Later, in a telephone conversation, he reportedly said, "I don't have time for you right now. Kim, unless you tell me what you're wearing." Shorter skirts would help, she remembers him saying. Another time, he allegedly rubbed her knee and said she was not "loose enough for him."

Mrs. Ellerth did not submit to his propositions and lost neither her job nor a promotion as a result. But after about a year, when the boss supposedly refused to authorize a project of hers and asked in a telephone call, "Are you wearing shorter skirts yet?" Mrs. Ellerth quit. She began thinking, "This isn't fair. This isn't right." So she sued Burlington for sexual harassment and triggered a chain of events that has now given the Supreme Court one of its most important and topical cases of the term. How the issue is decided could affect Paula Jones' appeal of her sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton.

The question is whether a worker has a legitimate sexual harassment case if she neither submitted to the boss nor suffered any tangible detriment because she said "no."

Lawyers in the field say circumstances like this, where the threat of punishment is never carried out, are common in American workplaces. But in many courts, if a woman is claiming what is known as a "quid pro quo" sexual harassment, in which a job benefit or loss depended on whether she submitted to the boss, she must show that she suffered a hardship for refusing to succumb.

If the Supreme Court rules that workers can bring a case when a retaliatory threat goes unfulfilled, many more victims would be able to sue their employers. Right now, several lower courts require proof of tangible consequences. During oral arguments that began Wednesday, the justices are weighing whether there can be a quid pro quo case if there is no "quo," that is, the woman did not suffer any definite job detriment.

Mrs. Jones, like Mrs. Ellerth, contends that when a boss implicitly threatens some job consequence, his advances are illegal. The quid pro quo allegation is just one part of Mrs. Jones' multifaceted complaint against Mr. Clinton, and the judge in the case said that even under the most lenient standard, Mrs. Jones' case could not go forward. But if the Supreme Court rules in a way that redefines the terms of harassment, it could complicate and further prolong Mrs. Jones' case against Mr. Clinton.

For their part, the justices seemed in many ways to be stepping back Wednesday, looking at long-standing distinctions for reviewing complaints and wondering whether they still worked.

"How did all this come up?" asked Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, referring to categories and standards used by courts but never drawn in the core federal law forbidding harassment on the job. Burlington Industries, where Mrs.

Ellerth worked from March 1993 to May 1994, has taken the position that it should take more than a threat to make companies financially responsible for a supervisor's abusive talk or conduct.

In oral argument Wednesday before the high court, James Casey, a lawyer for Burlington, said that employers should be liable only for tangible job detriments, not "bluffing."

Some of the justices seemed to agree that more than a threat would have to be shown to invoke an employer's financial responsibility. If it is "just a threat," Justice Anthony Kennedy suggested, there has been no company action.

But Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the sexual innuendo and misconduct Mrs. Ellerth asserts occurred might constitute a hostile work environment. "I don't see a lot of difference here," she said.

The case before the high court is Burlington's appeal of a decision in August by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that employers may be strictly liable under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 even if the worker neither succumbed to a boss's advances nor suffered any adverse job consequences as a result.



Susan McDougal arriving Thursday at the federal courthouse in Little Rock.

In Shackles Before Jury, McDougal 'Won't Talk'

Compiled by Our Staff Writers

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — Susan McDougal, her hands and feet in shackles, was led into a federal courtroom Thursday morning where she said she would not testify to the Whitewater grand jury investigating President Bill Clinton and a failed real estate deal because "there is nothing to say."

"I won't talk," Mrs. McDougal said. Charles Bakaly, an assistant in the office of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, said Mrs. McDougal's appearance was an attempt by prosecutors to give her a last chance to testify. He said she would be subject to criminal contempt and more jail time if she refused.

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright cleared the way for Mrs. McDougal's appearance before a special grand jury by allowing an order compelling her to face the panel to stand.

Judge Wright, who put Mrs. McDougal away for 18 months for defying an order to testify, said she could not set aside the order based on ethical questions raised about Mr. Starr, who is also investigating Mr. Clinton on allegations that he had sexual relations with a White House intern and then urged her to lie about it.

Mr. Clinton received support on that front in his battle with Mr. Starr. Former President George Bush, while pronouncing himself "deeply troubled" by the

allegations surrounding his successor, came out in opposition to forcing Secret Service agents to testify about whether they saw Mr. Clinton with the former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. He made his statement in a letter included in a sealed court filing Tuesday.

The National Organization for Women said Wednesday that it would not support the appeal of Paula Jones's sexual misconduct lawsuit against Mr. Clinton, saying her claim against the president was legally weak and tainted by rightist politics.

Prosecutors said they planned to ask Mrs. McDougal new questions based on information gathered in the Whitewater investigation since her last appearance in September 1996.

At that time, Mrs. McDougal refused to answer three questions from White-water prosecutors — including whether Mr. Clinton knew about a fraudulent \$300,000 loan she received 10 years earlier and whether he testified truthfully at her trial.

Since her last grand jury appearance, prosecutors have expanded their look at land developed by her former husband, James McDougal, who died in federal prison last month.

Mr. McDougal ran the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan that is at the center of the Whitewater investigation. (AP, WP, NYT)

A House Battle Won on Campaign Funds, but War Goes On

By Helen Dewar and Juliet Eilperin
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Advocates of campaign finance reform hailed the reversal by House Republican leaders that will allow a vote as a significant breakthrough, but acknowledge it is unclear what — if any — legislation will be approved.

"This is a great day for democracy," said Representative Christopher Shays, Republican of Connecticut, co-sponsor of a proposal to ban "soft money" donations to political parties and impose some controls on attack ads by interest groups.

But, Mr. Shays said, passage is "an open question that depends in large measure on how the public responds." The Senate early this year killed its version of reform.

The turnaround by Republican leaders came Wednesday as reform advocates in the House nudged toward the 218 signatures required for a "discharge petition" to force votes when the leadership refuses to act.

By Wednesday morning, 204 House members — including 12 Republicans — had signed. If all the remaining Democrats had signed, they would have effectively taken control of the debate — an outcome apparently deemed intolerable by Republican leaders. The signature campaign gathered momentum after Republican leaders enraged many members last month with a parliamentary maneuver to block action on the bill.

Their reversal became evident during a Republican caucus that opened with angry denunciations of the 12 Republican petition signers but

moved toward a friendlier dialogue. By the end of the caucus, the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, and other Republican leaders had agreed to an "open" process for voting on the issue by the end of May.

In return for scheduling votes, several sources said, Mr. Gingrich asked enough Republicans to take their names off the petition to keep it from succeeding, and at least five, including Mr. Shays, did so.

The Republican rebels congratulated Mr. Gingrich on his change of heart, while Democrats claimed victory.

"Campaign finance reform has survived the best attempts of the Republican leadership to drive a stake through its heart," said the minority leader, Richard Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri. "But

make no mistake: This was a retreat, not a conversion."

Under the agreement, the House will take up a bipartisan bill sponsored by about 70 House freshmen that includes curbs on soft money — the large unregulated donations to political parties — and requires more disclosure of spending on issue advocacy by independent groups.

It does not do as far as the measure sponsored by Mr. Shays and Representative Martin Meehan, Democrat of Massachusetts. But it will be considered under an "open rule," allowing substitutes and amendments, including Shays-Meehan and possibly others.

Mr. Shays indicated he may not get all he wanted, but said he would hold out for a total ban on soft money as well as curbs on attack ads.

POLITICAL NOTES



RHYME TIME — The U.S. poet laureate, Robert Pinsky, second from right, and two predecessors, Rita Dove and Robert Haas, reading at a White House celebration as President Clinton listened.

Clinton Aide's Suit On Internet Is Split

WASHINGTON — In a decision that was heartening for Internet access providers, a federal judge has dismissed a libel suit brought against America Online by a high-ranking aide to President Bill Clinton.

But the judge let stand a similar suit against Matt Drudge, the cyberspace gossip personality.

The judge, Paul Friedman of U.S. District Court, said Wednesday that he was reluctant to dismiss the suit brought by Sidney Blumenthal against America Online but that the clear intent of Congress — to protect Internet service providers from liability for material disseminated by them but created by others — had left him no choice.

In allowing the suit against Mr. Drudge to stand, the judge called the commentator "simply a purveyor of gossip" who had no right to the libel protections enjoyed by legitimate journalists.

Judge Friedman's ruling, in a suit filed after Mr. Drudge reported old rumors of domestic trouble between Mr. Blumenthal and his wife, Jacqueline, is hardly the last word.

The case is almost certain to be appealed to the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals and perhaps to the Supreme Court, which may be called upon to further refine how the First Amendment squares with news gathering and dissemination in the world of computers. (NYT)

White House Objects To California Ads

LOS ANGELES — Two candidates for governor of California are fighting for the right to use Mr. Clinton as their pitchman in television advertisements. The White House complained and has asked both Democratic candidates to stop running the ads.

Locked in a big-money primary race to be held June 2, Representative Jane Harman started broadcasting her Clinton ads this week, featuring footage of the president praising her as "the best of a new breed of political leaders."

The spots followed commercials run by Al Checchi, the former chief of Northwest Airlines, that showed a brief meeting he had had with Mr. Clinton.

Both commercials have drawn complaints from the White House, which traditionally forbids the use of the president's image in campaigns without his consent.

Mr. Clinton has taken no public stand on the primary. (AP)

Voting Plan Rejected

WASHINGTON — A proposed constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote of Congress to raise taxes was defeated for the third successive year, but supporters remained undeterred.

"My hope is we'll do it again next year," the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, said after the vote Wednesday.

The House voted 238-186 for the resolution, falling 45 votes short of the two-thirds necessary for a constitutional amendment.

But the bill attracted five more votes than it did last year. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Attorney General Janet Reno at a Senate hearing on the possibility of creating a national stockpile of vaccines, antibiotics and antidotes to save lives in the event of a chemical or biological weapon attack: "We need to look at carefully whether we have a sufficient stockpile — and I don't think we do — of vaccines and other medications, not just in the nation, but decentralized, so that they are immediately available, because time is of the essence in an attack with biological weapons." (NYT)

U.S. Camp Reeling From Vote on Cuba

As State Department Ponders Next Step, Gingrich Blasts Clinton for Defeat

WASHINGTON — Cuba escaped UN condemnation for its human rights performance this week after Russia and eight other countries reneged on assurances of support for a U.S.-backed resolution critical of Fidel Castro's regime, according to American officials.

The vote Tuesday marked the first time since 1991 that Cuba was spared condemnation by the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The vote was 19-16 with 18 abstentions.

As late as Monday night, the American delegation in Geneva thought the resolution would carry by a vote of about 18-12. The delegation was reportedly astonished the next day when the commission failed to condemn the Castro government.

In the official response to the vote, the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, expressed deep disappointment. He accused some members of the Human Rights Commission of "turning their backs on the suffering of the Cuban people."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia, speaking at a joint session of the Florida Legislature in

Tallahassee on Wednesday, blamed the Clinton administration for the UN failure to condemn Cuba.

"In a startling defeat for U.S. policy on Cuba," Mr. Gingrich said, "the president of the United States just went to a summit in Chile. Only two Latin American countries voted with us in the UN."

"The Clinton administration, whether by design or incompetence, has consistently allowed the pressure of Fidel to continue," Mr. Gingrich added.

He also surprised some lawmakers by saying he wanted the U.S. embargo lifted against Cuba, but then brought a standing ovation by adding that all it required was for free elections to take place in Cuba.

The countries that reversed themselves after indicating support for the UN resolution were Russia, Chile, Uruguay, Pakistan, Malaysia, Mali, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Guinea, according to State Department officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In Santiago, Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza of Chile defended the vote, saying his government "has not changed its stance on Cuba."

"The text submitted by the United States did not exactly reflect our position on the subject of Cuba and on the way this situation should be faced in the future," Mr. Insulza said Wednesday night. "In Cuba, it is necessary to open a dialogue, a debate, and the proposed resolution just slammed the door on what has already been done."

The U.S. officials said the Clinton administration was making plain to these countries its unhappiness over their votes. They said the administration was considering how to respond to the situation but had made no decisions as yet.

The vote was particularly unsettling to U.S. officials because several African countries voted with Cuba in the wake of the recent visit by Mr. Clinton to the continent. Mr. Clinton also had made his state visit to Chile just days before the UN vote on Tuesday.

Cuba has been increasingly successful in overcoming American efforts to isolate the island internationally. The UN General Assembly, by large margins each year, has approved resolutions criticizing the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Away From Politics

• A record \$54 million divorce settlement was awarded to the wife of Robert Gold- man, chairman of CoreStates Bank, by a New York judge. Vira Goldman's lawyer said she was "thrilled." (Reuters)

• An estranged couple drew guns and wounded each other in Fresno, California, after the husband was late for a marriage counseling session at a church. Michael Martin, clutching a beer in one hand, fired the first shot when his wife, Bonnie, began to leave St. James Episcopal Cathedral. Both were arrested and listed in fair condition at University Medical Center. (AP)

• Officials in Huntsville, Texas, needed two tries to execute a man convicted of murder. The first attempt to execute Joseph Cannon, 38, was aborted when a vein in his left arm collapsed and the needle popped out. (AP)

DEATH NOTICE

Professor Claude DOUBINSKY passed away last week in Paris, France. He was an accomplished teacher and a gentle administrator instrumental in promoting Franco-American educational programs and exchanges. He worked for several American Universities, among them Carnegie-Mellon, and served most recently as Vice-President for International Relations at the University of Tours. He is mourned by his American colleagues and by his close friends, especially Fran, whom he loved like a son, and Professor Claude Newman who shared his work, good humor, love and hopes over the past several years.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Shanghai Man Trashes Government

Episode Demonstrates the New Freedom to Speak Out in China

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — If you had a rotting pile of garbage sitting a few yards from your front door, day after day, it might make you mad, too.

Kong Fanrong is not just mad, he's going batty. He talks nonstop about the government's failure to keep his street clean. He writes letters. He remonstrates. He agitates. At work, Mr. Kong's colleagues are so tired of hearing him rant about faulty municipal litter collection that they call him the garbage man.

A wiry man with square, black plastic glasses and big ears that stick out like handles on a jug, Mr. Kong seems barely able to control his outrage, alternately lowering his voice into a taut whisper and hurrying forth with a stream of voluble vitriol.

"This is a clear violation of the law," he implored in a breathy murmur, his eyebrows bouncing nervously. Then he revved up the volume again: "The government is lawless! They are hoodlums!"

Mr. Kong is fighting city hall. If he seems a little overwrought, like other lonely warriors battling other bureaucracies around the world, it is because he is convinced that he has reason on his side, while victory remains hidden behind a stubborn wall that will not budge.

In China, it is a sign that society is progressing to a state of ordinary urban frustrations when a resident can openly accuse officials of breaking the law and suffer no retaliation. In fact, the government seems to be ignoring Mr. Kong. That is precisely the problem.

In the not-too-distant past, politics in China were so authoritarian that the slightest affront to a local official could lead to arrest. Nowadays, China's leaders are becoming inured to the growing chorus of complaints about pollution, unemployment and corruption. As long as they do not organize politically, malcontents like Mr. Kong can make all the noise they want.

Not that he is a kook or anything. Mr. Kong, 46, an accountant, seems utterly normal when not talking about garbage.

And, after all, he has an entirely legitimate complaint.

On Wuchang Road, the narrow street where Mr. Kong lives in central Shanghai, garbage is played in a remarkably big pile, just a few yards from his front door.

He explained what happened: The district government moved fruit and vegetable vendors to Wuchang Street four years ago, multiplying the daily volume of trash exponentially, without adding any trash bins.

Although emptied at dawn each day, the one bin on Mr. Kong's block is usually overflowing again by mid-afternoon. The pile of garbage strewn on the street is so big that it nearly blocks traffic.

"It's a real hazard," said Mr. Kong, whose 14-year-old daughter steps past the garbage on her way to school each day. "In the summer, the stench is so bad you don't want to go out."

As he spoke about it one afternoon, Mr. Kong eagerly pawed through a stack of dog-eared documents, fingering them one by one like pieces in a puzzle that when complete would somehow prove that his fight was not in vain. A letter to the mayor, a list of complaints to the deputy mayor in charge of environment, a petition to the district government; the response was always the same.

"No answer, no answer, no answer!" Mr. Kong summed up, almost apoplectic with frustration as he described it.

Over at the Hong Kong District government office, an official named Yao Zongqiang conceded that trash management in Shanghai was not yet where residents would like it to be. She expressed sympathy for Mr. Kong's fight.

"Everyone has to be patient," Miss Yao said. "It may be that the person in charge of that street has not been doing his job. We'll look into it."

That was months ago. No change. Like many bureaucracy warriors, Mr. Kong's frustration led him to study the law, and sure enough, he found what he says is legal proof that action was necessary.

"The law is very clear: You have to have a trash bin at least every 70 meters," he said triumphantly, pointing at a copy of the municipal law. "But there is not one on my street for over 100 meters, and all the merchants in the area dump into it every day."

Armed with that discovery, Mr. Kong thought his fortunes might change. He prepared a letter that laid out the legal argument, and even got 42 neighbors to sign it.

Nothing doing.

"They didn't even respond," said

Mr. Kong, shaking his head in disgust. "The law is on paper only. In practice, it is nothing. Here is a clear violation of the law, and not even the environmental protection office wants to pay attention."

On an evening when Mr. Kong welcomed a reporter to his cramped home, his wife had purposely made herself scarce.

"She thinks I'm crazy to talk to you," he said, sheepishly. "She only has one request: If I get arrested, will you help get me out of jail?"

Assured that complaining about garbage was no longer an arrestable offense, Mr. Kong explained that it was only as a last resort, since nothing else had worked, that he had decided to go to the international press.

"I called a Dutch journalist first, but his assistant said he was busy," Mr. Kong said. "She suggested I try an American, because you will write about anything."



Kong Fanrong standing by the garbage that has made him an agitator.

BRIEFLY

Ranariddh Urges Crime Tribunal

PHNOM PENH — Prince Norodom Ranariddh urged President Bill Clinton on Thursday to help establish an international tribunal to judge the remaining leaders of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime for crimes against humanity.

The prince, who was ousted as Cambodia's co-prime minister in a July coup, spoke in the northern town of Siem Reap in response to published reports that one of the most brutal Khmer Rouge leaders, Ieng Sary, said he would be willing to appear before such a court.

But Mr. Ieng Sary, who received a royal pardon for his crimes in 1996 after leading some 10,000 guerrillas to peace with the government, made the statement knowing he was unlikely to ever have to appear.

The prince's statements amount to backtracking on the pardon he approved for Mr. Ieng Sary. Mr. Ieng Sary was foreign minister in the Khmer Rouge regime that engineered the deaths of as many as 2 million people between 1975 and 1979.

Students Seek to Depose Suharto

JAKARTA — Defying Indonesia's ban on street protests, thousands of students marched onto a traffic-clogged road in the capital Wednesday to shout for an end to President Suharto's three-decade reign.

Thousands of students held demonstrations for political and economic reform in seven other cities in Indonesia, which is weathering its worst financial crisis in decades.

In Bali, police faced down stone-throwing students with tear gas and sticks. Police and witnesses said several officers and at least 12 students were injured in the clash at Udayana University in Denpasar, the capital of the international tourist haven. There were no arrests.

Marcos Funds Sent by Mistake

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Some \$300 million in Swiss bank accounts opened by the Marcos family was sent back to Manila by mistake, the supreme court here said Thursday.

But the court, officially called Federal Tribunal, ruled that the funds could stay in the Philippines, rejecting a request by Marcos family lawyers that the money be returned to Switzerland pending an appeal they have lodged.

The money is part of a \$520 million fortune blocked in Swiss banks for 12 years amid a legal battle between different groups of claimants.

Manila Challenger Makes Gains

MANILA — Joseph Estrada, a Philippine presidential candidate, has widened his lead less than three weeks before elections, two private polls showed Thursday, as investigators cleared him in a purported murder plot against President Fidel Ramos.

The government also said it had no evidence to link the college dropout and former movie star to gangsters.

Mr. Estrada, the sitting vice president who is openly derided by Mr. Ramos, church leaders and business executives, had a 17-point lead in the Social Weather Stations Inc. poll. A second poll, by the Philippine Survey and Research Center from April 15-19, has Mr. Estrada ahead by 22 points.

For the Record

Burma's exiled government on Thursday condemned a 25-year sentence given to a former member of Parliament, calling it part of a systematic attempt by the junta to intimidate opposition.

Top Negotiator For Taiwan To Visit China By Year's End

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China and Taiwan, reopening talks Thursday after a three-year hiatus, agreed that Taiwan's top negotiator, Koo Chen-fu, would visit the mainland before the end of this year.

Jan Jyh-hong, head of the delegation from Taipei's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, told Reuters that Beijing had agreed that the foundation's head, Mr. Koo, could visit this year.

Mr. Jan also said that Tang Shubei, deputy chairman of China's semi-official Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, had accepted an invitation to visit Taiwan.

"The time is now ripe for both sides of the straits to conduct political talks under the 'one China' principle," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said Thursday at a regular news briefing. Mr. Zhu said that Beijing would welcome more exchanges with Taipei.

The talks Thursday were the first since China broke off contacts after President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan visited the United States in 1995. Mr. Lee called it a private trip to a class reunion at Cornell University, but Beijing viewed the trip as an effort to break Taiwan's diplomatic isolation and upgrade Taiwan's relations with the United States.

The talks were also the latest in a series of developments that have reduced tensions across the Taiwan Strait, where two years ago last month China held a series of threatening military exercises and fired missile tests just off Taiwan's coast.

Though Chinese leaders believe that they will be unable to come to any political agreement as long as Mr. Lee is in power, they also want to reduce tensions and start to lay the groundwork for future talks with other Taiwanese leaders.

The two sides still are far apart on matters of substance, and talks are likely to drag on for years. Beijing has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since Chinese Nationalist forces fled there in 1949 after losing the civil war to the mainland to the Communists. Democratic Taiwan, which has been a self-governing island for nearly 50 years, is reluctant to give up its autonomy and reunite with the less developed and politically repressive mainland.

Taiwan wants talks now to focus on technical issues such as fishing rights, direct shipping and communication links, and normalizing investment status. Taiwanese companies have billions of dollars invested in China and already dominate the economy of Fujian Province.

China, however, wants to hold political talks about how to bring about reunification under the one-country, two-system formula China applied to capitalist Hong Kong last year. Taiwanese leaders, backed by the majority of public opinion in polls, say they would not consider reunification until China adopts a market economy and democracy.

In a sign that mutual suspicions remain, even as the talks get under way, China's official Xinhua press agency blasted Taiwan for its recent proposal to jointly hold a regional forum with Beijing to discuss solutions to Asia's economic woes.

"This deceptive show of benevolence by the Taiwan authorities in reality is another political trick with ulterior motives," Xinhua said in a commentary.

KOREA: As Debts Rise, New Risks Appear

Continued from Page 1

Federation of Korean Industries, which is made up of chairmen of the country's chaebol, or conglomerates.

Government officials have contended that the economy has stabilized with the aid of the IMF, international creditor banks and, most recently, a \$4 billion government bond issue.

Responding to the sense that the government, banks and chaebol were moving too slowly on pledges to restructure the economic system, the stock market has been falling all week.

On Thursday, share prices fell to their lowest level since the worst days of the economic crisis in December. The Korea Stock Exchange closed Thursday at 416.54 points, down 15.27 points, or 3.54 percent, from Wednesday.

"The current situation could be worsened in the wake of the consecutive collapse of insolvent businesses and mass unemployment creating social unrest," said Kim Woo Choong, chairman of Daewoo Group.

"There is still a danger of industrial collapse as we witness the unexpected demise of one business after another regardless of their size and competitiveness," he told a forum sponsored by the Financial Times newspaper.

The need to get rid of bankrupt firms is universally recognized here, but the question is how to do it. "In order to survive, firms may have to have distress sales of assets," said Kim Jun Kyun, the author of the report released by the Korea Development Institute.

Mr. Jwa of the Korea Economic Research Institute said major companies had "very much underestimated the situation" while going deeper into debt.

With domestic sales decreasing by 15 percent this year, Mr. Jwa called for increased exports as the best way to cover the gap. Analysts noted, however, that South Korea's strongest export product, semiconductors, is struggling against sharply declining prices abroad while another strong export, motor vehicles, faces sluggish sales in a stagnant world market.

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EUROPE

Blair Holds Back Report on Ulster Protestant Parades

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair blocked the expected publication Thursday of Ireland's flashpoint summer parades, saying he wanted to avoid destabilizing the province at a "volatile time."

The series of parades commemorating 17th-century battles between the province's Roman Catholics and Protestants have frequently provoked bloodshed, and there is a Northern Ireland peace plan before the new details are set. Referendums on the plan will take place May 22 in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

In a letter Wednesday night to the head of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission, Mr. Blair said: "This is a difficult and sensitive time for both communities and their political representatives. I have therefore come to the view that it would be preferable to

avoid overloading the political system by putting your preliminary view in the public domain now."

He said he wanted to ensure "that the broader political situation at an already volatile time is kept fully in mind."

The prime minister's spokesman said Thursday that Mr. Blair felt that a "yes" vote in the referendum could mean there would be a different political climate in Northern Ireland when decisions were made on which parades would be permitted and where they would be allowed to go.

The spokesman said that Mr. Blair did not know what the recommendations in the report were. In recent weeks, the commission has banned one march in Belfast and reduced the length of another. Thursday's report was to have taken up the rules governing the parade in July at Drumree, a rural church where standoffs in the past three years have set off hostilities across the province.

At issue are about a dozen of the 2,500 Protestant parades that mark events such as

the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690, when William of Orange, the Protestant king of England, overcame his Catholic rival, James II. The marchers are the men of the all-Protestant lodges of the Orange Order, dressed in black suits, bowler hats, white gloves and orange bib-like collars, often bearing swords and flags. They march to the militaristic accompaniment of flutes and large bass drums.

Protestants say the parades are central to their status and self-identity. "This is not simply a walk down the road," said George Patton, executive officer of the Grand Orange Lodge. "This is about whether we as a people have the right to exist." Each summer they insist on the right to stage them.

To Catholics, who now increasingly live along the routes of the parades, they are displays of bigotry and ruling-class self-importance, an unwelcome reminder of the time when the Protestants dominated Northern Ireland and held down the Catholic minority. They argue that such demonstrations should

be banned or at least rerouted. The focus in recent years has been on the July 12 march from the pastoral stone nave at Drumree down Garvaghy Road, an avenue of Catholic residences and housing projects, to the Orange Order Lodge in Portadown, the town where the Orange Order was founded in 1795. The Orangemen have stepped off on this course every year since 1807.

The Orange Order has announced that it is against the peace plan and has urged its members to vote "no" in the May referendum. The largest Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, has recommended a "yes" vote, and the campaign for the votes of Protestants, who still make up 53 percent of the population, is intense. Any decision that went against the Orangemen would give momentum to the "no" campaign.

A spokesman for the Democratic Unionist Party of the Reverend Ian Paisley, an opponent of the accord, called Thursday's action by Mr. Blair a "clear indication that the prime minister is on the run from the 'no' campaign."

BRIEFLY

42 Hurt in Paris Bus Accident

PARIS — A foreign tourist bus veered onto its side in a Parisian underpass Thursday, leaving 42 people injured, seven severely, rescue services reported.

The accident occurred just after 9 A.M. as the bus was leaving the tunnel near the Porte d'Italie in southern Paris. It was carrying 31 Australians, 4 New Zealanders, 3 Canadians and 2 South Africans. The police said speeding could have been the cause of the accident.

The bus was owned by a British company, Kontiki Travel, but leased to a Dutch outlet. A Kontiki Travel spokesman said the bus was leaving Paris on the third day of a 25-day European tour. (AFP)

Nuclear Cache Leaves Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia — The United States on Thursday was wrapping up a secretive effort to remove a cache of highly enriched uranium and spent nuclear fuel from the former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

"They removed the uranium overnight," said Zurab Saralidze, deputy head of Georgia's Physics Institute near Tbilisi.

It was not immediately clear whether U.S. Air Force planes had already flown the radioactive material to Britain, which had agreed to accept it for reprocessing.

The far-Tass news agency, however, quoted Georgian scientists as saying the cache was taken out of Georgia at 2 A.M. Thursday. (AP)

2 Bombs Set Off in Athens

ATHENS — Two firebombs exploded Thursday outside the offices of a Jewish organization here, touching off flames that caused damage but no injuries, police said.

The makeshift devices made of gas canisters exploded inside the building's empty elevator within seconds of each other at around 12:50 P.M.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and it was not clear whether the Central Board of Jewish Communities, the headquarters for local Jewish councils around Greece, was the intended target. The building also houses offices that issue temporary work permits to illegal immigrants. (AP)

For the Record

Dolly, the cloned sheep, has given birth, scientists announced Thursday in Edinburgh. Dolly's lamb, a healthy female named Bonnie, was born April 13 in a normal delivery, according to the Roslin Institute, where Dolly was cloned. It said both she and the lamb were in good health. (AP)

The chief of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, site of the world's worst civil nuclear accident, said Thursday that he would restart one of the Ukrainian plant's reactors next month. "Reconstruction work on Reactor Number Three is completed," Sergei Parashin said. (Reuters)

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, 71, who as foreign minister played a key role in forging German unity, bowed out of the political limelight Thursday. Mr. Genscher, who led the Free Democrats, made his farewell speech in Parliament during a debate on Europe's monetary union. (Reuters)

At Auschwitz, Netanyahu Leads March of Remembrance

OSWIECIM, Poland — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel led thousands of Jews in a grim march at the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp on Thursday to recall the 6 million victims of the Holocaust.

Flanked by his Polish counterpart, Jerzy Buzek, he walked under the notorious metal gate of Auschwitz at the head of about 6,500 young people and 1,000 survivors of Nazi Germany's attempt during World War II to kill all Jews.

"Here, right here, they tore the babies from their mothers' arms and threw them into the ovens," Mr. Netanyahu said in Hebrew at the camp where 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, died. "You can almost hear the mothers' cries rising from the ground and you can feel the paralyzing fear of the children."

The Israeli leader added, "Despite everything and after everything, in the war between the Nazi evil and the Jewish people — we won."

Before the "March of the Living" set out to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day at the site of Nazi-orchestrated genocide, an Israeli legislator, Shevah Weiss, said: "We are here together, young and old. We came here to cry."

German invaders murdered up to 1.5 million people — the vast majority of them Jews herded in from all around Europe — at the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex they built in occupied southern Poland.

Marchers followed the three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau on a route taken by many of those who were then gassed and burned in vast crematoria, where small children were almost always selected for immediate death.

Six Israeli flags were spread over the barbed wire fences. Next to the flags was a banner, written in Hebrew, urging, "Remember and never forget."

The march, organized regularly since 1988 to help young Jews comprehend the Holocaust, had special meaning this year.

Participants will go to Israel for celebrations next week marking the 50th anniversary of the country's foundation as a haven for a people scattered by almost 2,000 years of pogroms and discrimination.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau marchers were quiet, still under the pall cast by a visit of the camp's museum with its huge piles of braided human hair, worn shoes and broken glasses taken from the victims. They included Israeli soldiers, ministers, the chief rabbi and many prominent Polish officials, and were to attend a ceremony and prayers at Birkenau.

Thursday was Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day in Israel, marked by two minutes of silent tribute nationwide and a ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. (Reuters, AFP)



About 7,500 people took part in the march Thursday at Auschwitz.

Clash on Albania Border Is Reported as Serbs Vote

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELGRADE — Yugoslav Army troops were reported to have fought a nightlong battle with armed infiltrators on Albania's border with Kosovo as Serbs voted Thursday on whether to accept foreign mediation of the conflict over the troubled province.

The Serb-run media center in Kosovo's provincial capital, Pristina, quoted military sources as saying that troops mopped up in the morning after the battle with about 200 infiltrators, in which there were casualties.

There was no independent confirmation of the battle near the village of Kosare.

Serbian sources said it was believed that the armed groups were made up of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo border villages, suspected of receiving terrorist training in bases in northern Albania.

An overwhelming "no" vote was expected in the nonbinding referendum in Serbia — the dominant republic in what remains of Yugoslavia. The ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo, about 90 percent of the province's population of 2 million, boycotted the vote.

"I have circled the 'no' to protect my ancestral home," said Vojislav Miladinovic, a Pristina resident. "Kosovo is

Serbia and will remain Serbia as long as there are Serbs left here. There is nothing the world can do about it."

The president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, called the referendum in the face of international pressure, for Yugoslavia to accept outside mediation after a police crackdown in March in Kosovo, in which 80 Albanians were killed in counterinsurgency sweeps against separatists.

The international community has told the Kosovo Albanians that secession is not an option and has pressed both sides to begin an urgent dialogue with Western mediation.

Polls opened at 7 A.M. Results were expected Friday, the eve of a deadline set by the Contact Group of six major powers for Mr. Milosevic to start talks with the Kosovo Albanians or face the threat of renewed international sanctions.

"This is a referendum for Serbia to make decisions in Serbia," Mr. Milosevic said after he voted.

The United States and other Western countries are pressing Mr. Milosevic to restore the autonomy he took from Kosovo in 1989.

Kosovo Albanians have refused to negotiate with the Serbs unless Western officials are present. (Reuters, AP)

BOSNIA: France Denies Officer Undermined Plan to Seize Serb

Continued from Page 1

United Nations criminal tribunal in The Hague. Mr. Karadzic and his former military chief, Ratko Mladic, are the most wanted of the suspects still at large.

A French Defense Ministry spokesman, Pierre Bayle, and his counterpart at the Foreign Ministry, Anne Gazeau-Secret, refused to elaborate on the ministry's statement. They declined to provide any details about the French officer, whom they did not name.

The officer's transfer occurred in December, four or five months after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's plan to arrest Mr. Karadzic was to have taken place. It is unclear when U.S. officials, according to sources, confronted the French with evidence of improper contacts.

French officials said the officer had been doing his job maintaining contacts with Bosnian Serbs who might be useful in apprehending indicted war criminals or persuading them to surrender. But by meeting with Mr. Karadzic, a violation of NATO rules, the officer crossed a line, according to one French official, who argued that the communiqué's opaque language should be read as a demand against the officer.

Senior U.S. officials were quoted by The Post as saying that France's role in the botched arrest of Mr. Karadzic had poisoned relations with the United

States, Britain and other NATO allies involved in maintaining peace in Bosnia and bringing war criminals to justice.

Tense U.S.-French Relations

R. Jeffrey Smith of The Washington Post reported earlier from Washington:

Cooperation between French and U.S. forces in Bosnia has been considered essential because the French directly command the NATO troops that patrol in the town of Pale, where Mr. Karadzic is now believed to reside.

The episode of the allegedly leaked plans "ripped open a big gap in relations with the French" in Bosnia, one official said, and forced NATO to suspend a major operation that would have involved hundreds of heavily armed soldiers in an assault against Mr. Karadzic's security forces.

Another senior official said he found the episode "despicable and appalling" and said "no trust" remained between the U.S. and French military forces, a development that has led Washington to end virtually all consultations with the French about the possible capture of indicted war criminals.

The dispute underscores some of the international tensions surrounding the question of whether and when NATO forces should attempt to capture Mr. Karadzic and others indicted for perpetrating wartime abuses in Bosnia. Western political officials have long

claimed the arrests are essential to implementing a 1995 peace accord and promoting regional stability.

The French officer's meetings with Mr. Karadzic occurred over a lengthy period in 1997, and were discovered by Washington after someone tipped U.S. intelligence officials, according to several sources.

At a minimum, the meetings were a violation of NATO's policy of shunning any official contact with indicted war criminals such as Mr. Karadzic, a glibulous and charismatic psychiatrist and poet who served as president of the Bosnian Serb government in Pale until 1996 and allegedly ordered or tolerated some of the worst atrocities of the ethnic war, which lasted from 1992 to 1995.

The officials declined to provide details of the operation that was planned last year but said that the discovery of the French officer's meetings with Mr. Karadzic immediately provoked suspicions that the purpose was to help Mr. Karadzic evade capture.

The decision to suspend the attempted capture was reportedly made by Wesley Clark, the U.S. Army general who is supreme allied commander of NATO, who concluded that the French contact with Mr. Karadzic could have exposed Western forces to undue risk by "stripping away" their defenses against a Serbian counterattack, according to another official.

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INTERNATIONAL

Constantine Karamanlis Dies at 91; Led Greece to Democracy

By David Binder
New York Times Service

Constantine Karamanlis, 91, a principled statesman who returned with high drama from self-imposed exile in 1974 to restore democracy to Greece after a repressive seven-year military dictatorship, died early Thursday at a hospital in Athens.

Mr. Karamanlis was hospitalized on April 7 with a respiratory infection and suffered kidney and heart complications, Reuters reported.

Mr. Karamanlis led Greece as prime minister for a total of 14 years — longer than any other leader in modern times. He served two terms totaling 10 years as president, a mainly ceremonial post.

For half his lifetime, Greece was widely considered part of the Near East rather than Europe. A great achievement of this sometimes lonely politician was to lead his country into the continent's political and economic family, attaining full membership in the European Economic Community, now the European Union, in 1981.

In the course of his life, Greece underwent two world wars and two civil wars, four dictatorships of monarchs, eight coups and four dictatorships. He himself left office twice on matters of principle, once as prime minister and again as president.

Mr. Karamanlis built the country's first strong conservative party, the National Radical Union, which won



Mr. Karamanlis, who left office twice on matters of principle.

parliamentary majorities in five elections. He legalized the long-banned Communist Party and he conducted the referendum in 1974 that abolished Greece's ill-starred monarchy by a vote of nearly 70 percent and put a republic in its place.

His career of six decades in Greek politics ended March 9, 1995, with his resignation from the presidency typically, on his own terms.

Two months before his term ended, his farewell statements included this admonition to his compatriots:

"Don't encourage the Greeks' passion for publicity and self-promotion. It endangers the country's social and political life."

He was never a cynic, but he was a strong skeptic, even about his own accomplishments. In 1984 he told an interviewer: "When I first went into politics, I thought Greeks were very individualistic and poor at working collectively because they were poor. Being poor makes you cunning and cunning. So I thought, well, I'll make them richer. To some extent it did. But nothing changed."

Imbued with a sense of rectitude, Mr. Karamanlis had earlier shocked his countrymen by resigning as prime minister in June 1963. The event leading to this was the assassination of a popular leftist politician, Gregoris Lambrakis, by rightist plotters a month before in Salonika.

Although Mr. Karamanlis was never implicated in the killing, his conservative government came under severe criticism by leftists around the world. This prompted him to advise King Paul and Queen Frederika to postpone a trip to London, where they would surely face street demonstrations. He warned, "If the king persists in disregarding the government's advice, I shall offer him my resignation." But King Paul did persist.

For Mr. Karamanlis, the issue was a simple matter of the separation of powers in a constitutional monarchy. He felt the king and

queen had stepped on his prerogatives. So he quit.

Mr. Karamanlis left Greece for Paris, where he lived 11 years. During his time in Paris, Mr. Papandreu also came into conflict with the monarchy and was forced from office. A series of weak coalitions followed, enabling the armed forces to seize power on April 21, 1967. For seven of Mr. Karamanlis's exile years, Greece was ruled by a junta led by army colonels. In Paris, Mr. Karamanlis spoke out against the military rulers and called for their overthrow.

In July 1974 the junta came to ruin by organizing a short-lived coup against Archbishop Makarios, the leader of Cyprus. This led to Turkey's invasion of the island and occupation of the north.

The dictatorship began to collapse and Greece was on the brink of war with Turkey. Politicians and military officers felt only Mr. Karamanlis had the prestige to deal with the crisis, and he was summoned home.

In one of the most memorable moments in contemporary Greek history, a wildly cheering crowd welcomed him in Constitution Square in Athens as a savior.

Mr. Karamanlis immediately began reviving his country.

"I see the smooth restoration of democracy in 1974 as my major political achievement," he said later. "There was a political vacuum after the fall of the dictatorship,

which could easily have led the country to anarchy or civil war."

Charles Lang, Cameraman Who Won an Oscar in 1933
The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, California — Charles Lang, 96, the Academy Award-winning cinematographer who shot "The Magnificent Seven" and whose innovative work lent glamour to some of the biggest names in Hollywood, died of pneumonia on April 3 in Santa Monica, hospital officials said.

Mr. Lang's career spanned 50 movies over four decades. He was nominated for Oscars 18 times and won in 1933 for "A Farewell to Arms," starring Helen Hayes and Gary Cooper. He received the American Society of Cinematographers' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991.

Peter Lind Hayes, 82, Actor and TV Figure of the 1950s
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Peter Lind Hayes, 82, who parlayed a start in vaudeville into decades in nightclubs, radio, television and the movies with his wife, Mary Healy, died on Tuesday. He had been in poor health recently.

Mr. Hayes became a household name in the late 1950s with the "Peter Lind Hayes Show," a variety show featuring celebrities such as Frank Sinatra and Lucille Ball.

BRIEFLY

Vatican and Rights Group Urge Rwanda to Cancel Executions

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II and the human rights group Amnesty International urged Rwanda on Friday to halt the planned execution on Friday of more than 20 prisoners convicted of involvement in genocide. "I beg your excellency to suspend this judgment with an act of clemency which would favor the process of reconciliation," the Pope said in a telegram to President Pasteur Bizimungu. "Indeed, these executions can only deepen the serious divisions which are still tearing apart Rwandan society."

Those words were echoed by the secretary-general of Amnesty International, Pierre Sané, who also voiced doubts about whether the condemned men had received a fair trial.

Justice Minister Faustin Nteziryayo of Rwanda said Wednesday that his country would execute more than 20 prisoners convicted in connection with the 1994 genocide in which 800,000 people were killed. (Reuters)

For the Record
Seventy-six rebels and civilians were killed in Burundi in an attack by Hutu guerrillas east of the capital, the army said Thursday. Lieutenant Colonel Isidore Nibizi said the killings occurred Wednesday in Isale, 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the capital, Bujumbura. (Reuters)

Unknown gunmen opened fire on two South African tax vans and another vehicle in KwaZulu-Natal Province, killing five people and injuring 12, police said Thursday. Police said ongoing violence between rival taxi operators might have been the motive for the shooting on Wednesday. (AP)

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

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Who Governs the Net?

There is much activity now on the part of people trying to create a kind of self-government of the Internet. Not surprisingly, no one is ready. The government of Australia joined with the European Union recently in protesting a U.S.-backed plan to shift authority for assignment of "domain name" registries (the basis for Internet addresses) to a U.S.-based nonprofit corporation.

It is the equivalent of a constitutional-writing moment for the Internet, which has till now been built, owned and administered overwhelmingly by Americans for the simple reason that it was invented for an American defense agency by a small number of technical "wizards" trained and bussed mainly at American institutions. Although the National Science Foundation has been handing over more and more of the Internet's everyday administration to private and semi-private entities, the process has continued to be dominated by insiders. The key function of re-

gistering domain names, handed a few years ago to a small Virginia-based company, has proved not just unmanageable in volume but also the focus of increasing commercial pressure.

Most criticism of the new proposal has focused on the makeup of a proposed governing board, the number of new "top-level domains" to be added to existing ones and the openness of the process. The complaint that American technical people dominate the Web and its governing structures is of a different order. Like so many other Net-borne phenomena, including the widespread use of English, it reflects the world outside rather than any structural choice. Should an Internet governing body attempt to level the playing field among nations, or among big and small commercial players? These are large questions, unlikely to be answered in any lasting way by the small group now involved.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

'Head of the Turkmen'

President Bill Clinton welcomed to the White House on Thursday a man who has done more than anyone else on earth to preserve the Soviet system. He is Saparmyrat Niyazov, president of the republic of Turkmenistan, a desert nation of 4.5 million that Mr. Niyazov has turned into a kind of living museum of Soviet totalitarianism and Stalinist self-glorification.

In Turkmenistan there is one political party, which Mr. Niyazov has renamed from "Communist" to "what else?" "Democratic." It is headed by who else? — Mr. Niyazov, the former Communist boss who has styled himself "Turkmenbashi," or Head of the Turkmen, after whom have been named towns, streets, collective farms, a college and more.

He ran unopposed for president in 1992 and then, to spare his nation the trauma of a re-election campaign, staged a referendum in 1994 extending his rule until 2002. According to the official tally, 99.9 percent of voters supported that referendum. All media are tightly controlled, and foreign newspapers are confiscated at the airport from arriving visitors.

This might be funny or quaint except for its painful consequences for those who object. Dissidents are jailed, or, as in Soviet times, confined to psychiatric institutions. Their children are expelled from school and their relatives punished at work, according to a State Department report on human rights. When

Turkmenistan's only political demonstration took place in 1995, security police swept in and quickly imprisoned many protesters (how many is unknown). One, Charymurad Amardurdyev, was beaten so badly that his eye fell out; he died in prison in January.

So why did Mr. Clinton break bread with Mr. Niyazov? Turkmenistan sits above huge oil and gas reserves. American companies and former government officials have swarmed to Turkmenistan since independence in 1991. And the administration has a geopolitical interest in bolstering the young nation against bullying from Russia to the north and Iran to the south; Mr. Clinton will have urged his guest to support construction of an oil and gas pipeline that goes west, through neither of those neighboring powers.

These are legitimate foreign policy interests; nor does the administration neglect human rights. It works behind the scenes to express its concerns, and Mr. Niyazov reportedly has freed, at least for now, a few political prisoners — including one he had arrested just last week. But inviting him to Washington without any preconditions or even a modicum of democratization risks sending a message that, as the U.S. Helsinki Commission said in a letter to Mr. Clinton, "no political reforms or human rights issues matter to the United States as long as you have oil or natural gas."

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Yes, Campaign Reform

Newt Gingrich did not quite surrender to the forces of campaign finance reform on Wednesday, but he ordered a hasty retreat as a Republican rebellion against his leadership gained strength. Faced with the prospect of a majority of House members forcing him to submit reform legislation to a vote, he volunteered to bring the bill to the floor next month. But euphoria is premature. A great many obstacles still stand in the way of enacting a meaningful change in the law.

Speaker Gingrich, Trent Lott and other Republican leaders in Congress remain wedded to a practice in which hundreds of millions of dollars in donations from corporations, unions and rich donors have corrupted the election system. Now that the long-deferred vote is due in the House, they will try their best to add poison-pill amendments to repeal Democratic votes, or to put together watered-down versions that draw support from the real thing. One bill that Mr. Gingrich might let pass, for instance, would restrict donations to national party organizations but let them flow into state parties. Fund-raisers and donors could drive truckfuls of cash through that loophole.

The legislation with the best chance of changing the system is sponsored in the House by Representatives Christopher Shays of Connecticut and Martin Meehan of Massachusetts. It is identical to the McCain-Feingold legislation that commands majority support in the Senate but was driven back by a filibuster backed by Mr. Lott. The bill's most important feature is a ban on "soft money," the open-ended contributions to national and state parties at the center of the scandals in the last election.

Mr. Shays and at least a dozen Republicans showed great fortitude in

gathering signatures on a petition that would soon have forced the bill up for a vote. Richard Gephardt, the House minority leader, and two pro-reform moderates, Scotty Baesler of Kentucky and Charles Stenholm of Texas, worked hard to bring Democrats aboard. The result was a stinging setback for Mr. Gingrich. But this is not about embarrassing the speaker. Democrats who signed the petition to get a vote on the Shays-Meehan bill must now sock with that bill and not drift away to embrace a phony substitute. Republicans must be wary of the same sort of substitutes.

In conceding defeat, Mr. Gingrich has promised an open vote on competing pieces of legislation. It should be remembered that he earlier promised just such a vote. If he fails to deliver this time, the petition drive can quickly be renewed. The biggest enemy now is cynicism, reflected by months of headlines proclaiming the death of campaign reform. It is actually very much alive.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment
America's UN Dues

The United States is contractually committed to paying its fair percentage of UN costs, based on its share of the world's wealth.

Settlement of the UN debt issue ought to be kept wholly separate from the abortion issue, which is being used as a deal-kicker by those who want the debt to remain unpaid. This political leveraging of unrelated issues is not in the United States' international interests.

—Los Angeles Times.

China Changes, but Democracy Remains Far Off

By Flora Lewis

BEIJING — The reform plans come streaming out. Having decided to make the economy the absolutely first priority, and accepting that that means opening ever more to the world, China's leaders are plunging ahead.

They are aware of the risks of widespread social upheaval as tens of millions of people are displaced by industrial and bureaucratic "downsizing," a word they use. They watch for the lessons of Southeast Asia's financial crisis. But they are determined to maintain rapid growth, and they spell out in increasing detail the vast list of changes under way.

In all the speeches delivered to the 17th conference of the World Economic Forum here on how they plan to go about it, however, one familiar term was never uttered. It is "the Party."

The Chinese Communist Party has by no means been marginalized. It remains at the peak of the hierarchy. Party membership is still a key to getting ahead. Every state enterprise, every administration has a party committee, and its first secretary is a commanding power alongside the manager. The party is the central mechanism for control.

Appalled at what happened to the Soviet Union and its Communists, Chinese rulers were convinced that Moscow's great mistake was to un-

dermine the power of the party, to permit political reform alongside economic liberalization. They do not intend to let that happen here, although their analysis is flawed by ignoring the big difference in the two countries' points of departure from a centrally planned and micromanaged economy.

Both launched reform for the same reason: The system just wasn't producing very well. But they started from opposite circumstances.

The Soviet Union had been allowed to stagnate for a quarter of a century. It was so stable that it was totally congealed. Mikhail Gorbachev meant to focus on the economy, but whatever he ordered, nothing much happened. Perestroika wasn't enough. The party had to be shaken up to get any action. That was glasnost. It did work, and it brought collapse of the system.

The Chinese came to reform from the devastation of the Cultural Revolution, total chaos which shook up not only the party but the whole society to the point where some quiet order was the greatest need and anarchy the greatest fear. There are other important differences, of course, but that is a major factor in the Chinese Commu-

nists' ability to hold off pressure for political reform.

There is talk here and there of the need to open a bit on that front, too. A few already hail "spring in Beijing." That is a great exaggeration. The party seems to have withdrawn from day-to-day management of affairs, leaving more decisions to the government structure. But it still sets the great lines of policy, which include sustaining its own power monopoly. A well-informed Western diplomat said the Central Committee now acts like a general staff.

There is little of the old agitprop type of ideological exhortation anymore, but it is wrong to say that there is no more communism. The 50th anniversary of the Chinese revolution will be celebrated next year with great ado.

China is aware that it is projecting itself into the world as the last major Communist power regardless of the tide of history elsewhere. There are great expectations for President Bill Clinton's visit here later this year as an endorsement of the legitimacy of the Chinese exception.

Eventually, legitimacy will become a problem for a regime that does not offer freedom. Enriching people satisfies for a while, but people who have acquired something start to think of their rights and how to protect them-

selves from abuse of power. Still, that is not likely to come soon. After a century of the most horrible suffering, the Chinese are not likely to risk civil conflict by challenging authority in ways that bring danger.

Another factor reinforcing the regime, in strong contrast to what has happened in Russia, is a sense of ascending national power. Russia lost an empire. China, humiliated for a hundred years, has lost nothing and indeed has regained Hong Kong. There is no nostalgia, and no reason for it, here.

The start of pluralistic elections, at village level only, is the most modest possible concession to political liberalization; even then the local party chief often suffers no opposition. If there is any notion of moving toward something more like democracy, it is only a gleam in a few eyes at this point.

This is the China we have to deal with in the coming period. There is no point in pretending that freedom and human rights are around the corner, because we would fool only ourselves. It is good, for the rest of the world as well as for China, for this enormous country to emerge from user poverty, and it will be a lot better when, some day, it achieves democracy. But don't hold your breath.

Flora Lewis.

Cambodia: An Ancient Society Driven to Self-Destruct

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The 2 million or so murders for which Pol Pot and his movement were responsible in Cambodia all were inspired by a desire to strip in revolutionary zeal the Chinese Cultural Revolution, so as to cleanse Cambodia of "all sorts of depraved cultures and social blemishes."

A naive ideological vision of agrarian utopia, stripped of urban and bourgeois influences, was responsible for this genocidal program.

It had been worked up in student leftist circles in Paris after World War II, and adopted by the man who later renamed himself Pol Pot. The principal author of the ideology, which he developed in the thesis he presented at the Sorbonne in the 1950s, is still alive, in the Cambodian forest. He is Khieu Samphan.

The Communist group Pol Pot joined on his return to Cambodia was a negligible force in

the country's politics. It did not begin to prosper until Cambodia was swept toward the Vietnam War by North Vietnam's exploitation of Cambodian military weakness and the country's policy of neutrality with respect to that war.

Hanoi developed routes inside Cambodia's frontiers to transport arms and supplies southward to the Vietcong. In 1969 the United States began secretly to bomb those routes. The secret was kept from the American public, and from all but two or three senators, trusted by President Richard Nixon.

Subsequently the Nixon administration lent its approval to a military coup which overthrew the neutralist government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and installed a military dictatorship.

In 1970 the United States and

South Vietnam invaded Cambodia. That act of international illegality is described by William Bundy, who was at the time a supporter of the Vietnam War, as "indeed a black page in the history of American foreign policy." (This is in Mr. Bundy's forthcoming history of American policy under Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, "A Tangled Web.")

The invasion proved futile. The North Vietnamese shifted their supply trails even deeper into Cambodia, whose new rulers were as incapable of stopping them as Prince Sihanouk had been.

The American bombing campaign in 1969 had not primarily been meant to affect the military situation. According to Mr. Bundy, who was a CIA and State Department official in the 1960s and the beginning of the

1970s, the bombing was intended "above all as a demonstration to the Soviet Union that [President Nixon] was indeed capable of extreme and irrational response."

Mr. Nixon and his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, believed that international communism was a structured and disciplined movement, and that the Vietnam War could be ended by intimidating Moscow and Beijing. The Cambodian victims of American actions were killed for a purpose that had nothing directly to do with Cambodia.

In the subsequent struggle, China backed Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, while North Vietnam supported a less radical Communist faction.

In the spring of 1972, North Vietnam launched a major offensive into South Vietnam, moving its forces out of frontier Cambodia, which left space for

the Khmer Rouge to expand its influence. It went on to become the main threat to the American-supported government.

"From 1973 on," Arnold Isaacs wrote in his 1983 book "Without Honor: Defeat in Vietnam and Cambodia," "Cambodia seemed an entire country gone amok. All its psychological anchors were ripped loose in the hurricane of violence which had fallen upon it. American decisions and American bombs had helped destroy peace-time Cambodia life, and it is in that sense that some connection can be said to exist between American actions and the savagery of the Khmer Rouge."

American bombing of Cambodia was resumed in 1973, not because of anything the Cambodians had done but as "punishment" for North Vietnamese violations of the peace agreement that had been signed by Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho in Paris in January. Eighty thousand tons of bombs were dropped on the country during four months, until Congress forced the Nixon administration to stop. All were meant as "messages" to Hanoi, Beijing or Moscow.

All this produced a terrifying synthesis of forces. Destruction delivered with impunity from abroad awakened a naive capacity for suicidal catharsis and renewal, provided by the ideologies of the Khmer Rouge. What happened in Cambodia between the fall of Phnom Penh in April 1975 and the Vietnamese invasion that stopped the Khmer Rouge terror in December 1978 had happened before.

From the 12th century forward — after the immense temple complex of Angkor was built — a series of cataclysmic defensive and civil wars occurred in Cambodia that ended in ruined cities and partition of the country between Thais and Vietnamese.

Norodom Sihanouk has himself said that "several times in the past, the Khmer people, who built Angkor, have demonstrated a morbid desire for mutual self-destruction."

This time it was accomplished under the impulsion and with the complicity of the Vietnamese people, whom Cambodians have always hated and feared, under the influence of the Chinese, their overpowering neighbor, and under punishment from an American government which, as Mr. Bundy makes plain, had among its members absolutely no one who knew anything about Cambodia's society or history — or cared.

International Herald Tribune.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Pol Pot and Other Lethal Pawns in the World Game

By Richard Reeves

LOS ANGELES — The accepted number of men, women and children killed by the Khmer Rouge in four years is 1.6 million.

The sickness hit me in a small waiting room of the airport of Phnom Penh. In 1975, the Pol Pot government had invited back educated exiles to build a new Cambodia. The returnees, many of them enthusiastic about the idea of national renewal, were gathered in that room and killed as they came off the planes, or they were sent out to fields and paddies to be beaten to death or to die of exhaustion like the slave laborers of Hitler.

It was an ordinary room, the kind you expect in poor, tropical countries, a room of easily washable tiles and cheap orange plastic chairs.

The government of the United States, in ways both open and secret, supported and helped sustain Pol Pot and his young murderers, rural teenagers trained as soldiers and sent out with tales of urban decadence drilled into ignorant heads.

They found defenseless chaos in the cities, partly triggered by U.S. bombing of neutral Cambodia, part of a secret (to us) war to try to destroy North Vietnamese military supply lines and depots.

After the Vietnam War, the United States and international relief organizations continued to pay for "refugee" camps on the border of Cambodia and Thailand, some of them safe havens and staging grounds for operations against the North Vietnamese-dominated government that replaced Pol Pot in 1979.

Why? The usual reason: Pol Pot was the enemy of our enemy, the North Vietnamese. He was, in the reasoning of the Cold War, the lesser of two evils.

But Pol Pot is only part of the story of American shame or shamelessness in supporting the worst of men in our own fanatic war against Soviet communism. He was just one name on the dishonor roll of killers and despots that our government created or promoted or paid for in zealous, sometimes zany attempts to keep the Communists and other leftists off balance around the world.

Even after he fell from national power, we helped supply and protect Pol Pot, because the Khmer Rouge were tying down large numbers of occupying North Vietnamese troops.

These are some of the names of the evil men who were or still are our paid friends:

• Saddam Hussein, paid for making war on Iran.

• Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who made his name throwing acid in the faces of female students in Kabul who dared to wear Western dress, paid for making war against Communists in Afghanistan.

• Manuel Noriega, the thug we encouraged to overthrow elections in Panama because we didn't like the results.

• Mobutu Sese Seko, who was our man in Zaire.

In many of these cases our interests involved resources — oil, usually, but even in Cambodia there were rubies and other gems in Khmer Rouge territory. And, as always, there are weapons sales to be considered.

The great laugh of the tragic history of the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot is that a few weeks ago, Washington began talking about bailing him before an international tribunal.

Universal Press Syndicate.

Mideast Rendezvous in London

By William Safire

LONDON — Follow the behind-the-scenes machinations to restore reciprocity to Middle East negotiations.

Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu had to establish that he (a) was not going to be deposed and was the Israeli leader who could make a doable deal, and (b) would not be pressured into giving up all his leverage of land to turn over before final settlement.

Yasser Arafat had to show he (a) was prepared to take on the terrorist bombers of Hamas, and (b) understood that neither U.S. mediators nor his European patrons could force Israel to give up all the West Bank and divide Jerusalem.

Bill Clinton had to (a) find a way around Israel's refusal to be bullied into accepting to Mr. Arafat's salami tactic, and (b) suggest to Mr. Arafat that his \$100 million-plus annual financial support from the European Union had to be mutual.

Step one was for Washington to suggest subtle diplomacy by a heavier hitter. Madeleine Albright would undertake it in a European rather than a local venue.

Step two was to take advantage of convergent events: the term of Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair, as chairman of the European Union, coinciding with his scheduled visit to the Middle East, and capped by the psychological boost of his success toward peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Clinton let Mr. Blair get the credit for jump-starting negotiations. (His supportive joint TV appearance with Mr. Clinton when the American's

back was to the media wall re-specialized the relationship between the White House and 10 Downing Street.) Mr. Netanyahu, needing to demonstrate transience, suggested London as the meeting place.

Mr. Arafat's need was to play hard to get. He was allowed first to be heard admonishing the Israelis to accept the unpublished American plan for a larger salami slice, and then to acquiesce in a London meeting as if doing the world a favor.

Why should the Israelis want to involve the European Union further in the Middle East, considering France's affinity for Saddam Hussein? Only last month the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, blundered through Israel, snubbing its Holocaust memorial and all but endorsing Palestinian claims to a hill inside Jerusalem.

Answer: Mr. Blair is a quick study, and advised by British Jewish leaders now supporting his New Labour Party, made all the right steps in Israel. Moreover, Britain stands with the United States against Saddam and his French and Russian business interests.

Tony Blair I can deal with. "Mr. Netanyahu tells me over the phone," but these are not quadrilateral talks, and the European Union is not in the game. "My guess is that it suits him to discover a personal chemistry with Tony when the world knows it does not exist with Bill.

At the meeting, scheduled

for May 4, Mr. Blair, while insisting that he is merely the host and not poaching on America's preserve as mediator, will be furnishing his credentials as peacemaker.

Because Mr. Clinton both trusts and loves Mr. Blair, because Mr. Netanyahu can use an intermediary with the Clintons as well as with Mr. Arafat, because Britain's prosperity gives it clout in a European Union lumbered by France's dead weight, and because the EU will be the growing market for both Israel and the nascent Palestinian state — Mr. Blair will be more than master of ceremonies.

Madeleine Albright, shuttling between hotels, will extract from Mr. Netanyahu what he has been ready to grant: a Gaza industrial zone and airport, a component of statehood. But most media, forgetting Israel's need for closure, will judge success on how close Israel comes to the 13 percent slice Mr. Clinton wants.

Mr. Arafat will try to recycle promises to strike the death-to-Israel clause from his covenant and to stop releasing terrorists. We have heard that before. But if a date can be arranged to negotiate final settlement, with a tacit understanding of its outlines, the London Round will be memorable.

The doable deal: a demilitarized Palestinian state on a majority of the West Bank with a capital near Jerusalem that it can call Jerusalem. The alternative is another long stretch of process without peace.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: East-West Split

PARIS — Much interest appears to have been excited in Japan by an article recently contributed to a leading Japanese periodical by Prince Konohe, the President of the Upper House of the Diet or Parliament, on the necessity for an alliance between Japan and China to resist the aggression of Western nations and their growing aggrandizement in the Far East. His view is that the struggle of the future in that region will be between the yellow and white races, and not merely between nations.

1923: League Defied

GENEVA — The utility of a world court as an agency for settling European disputes when a nation's pride has been aroused was shown before the Council of the League of Nations. Called before the Council to answer why she has not protected the

rights of Hungarian minorities, Rumania snapped her fingers at the suggestion to refer her treaty with Hungary to the court, and even disputed the right of the League to take up the discussion. As a result of Rumania's attitude, the Council failed to settle the quarrel, which may easily grow to grave proportions.

1948: Haifa Taken

JERUSALEM — Haifa, third city of Palestine and evacuation port of the British Army, became a virtual Jewish stronghold after a series of savage thrusts by Haganah, the Jewish Army, secured most of the city's Arab exodus by sea. With Haifa secure, Jewish domination of the Mediterranean coast of Palestine would be nearly complete. The only sizable port is at Jaffa, next door to the Jewish capital of Tel Aviv. An attack upon it is considered imminent.

Retooling a Res

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives today passed a bill to retool the Res... (The rest of the text in this column is illegible due to extreme blurriness and overlap with other content.)

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OPINION/LETTERS

Retooling a Response to Saddam

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Despite new signs that Saddam Hussein may soon break out of his deal with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Clinton administration is weighing a retreat from its previous threats to bomb Iraq if Baghdad resumes active disruption of UN weapons inspections.

This budding shift in U.S. position is at the center of a continuing policy review on Iraq by President Bill Clinton and his principal national security aides.

Guarded comments from U.S. officials about the high-level "principals" meetings on Iraq, which began in early April, confirmed that the U.S. response to a new expulsion of UN inspectors by Baghdad would not automatically involve military action.

"We would have to look at the circumstances," said an official. The discussions thus far have produced a sense among some participants that the threshold for U.S. unilateral military action against Saddam is being raised significantly, while tough-sounding rhetoric about the urgent need to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction used by the administration last winter is being abandoned in favor of softer and vaguer formulations.

Proponents of these changes argue that they are necessary to maintain support for UN economic sanctions against Iraq. "We are studying how to adjust our rhetoric without changing our fundamental policy," said one senior official.

But the changes being urged on President Clinton also could result in significant damage to U.S. credibility if they are perceived as pretexts for his shying away once again from military action to force Iraq to comply with UN resolutions.

The administration seems to be using the review to draw some of the correct lessons about the four-month confrontation that followed the November expulsion of UN inspectors. But some options being presented to Mr. Clinton emphasize toning down direct U.S. action against Saddam rather than enhancing it as punishment for his defiance.

The consultations in Washington coincide with renewed harsh denunciations of the UN inspections and of economic sanctions from Baghdad after a period of outward Iraqi cooperation.

Reacting to UN Special Commission Chairman Richard Butler's refusal to give Iraq a clean

bill of health on hidden weapons, Saddam threatened to strike back at the UN if it did not lift sanctions immediately.

U.S. officials had expected the Iraqi dictator to wait until October to bring the inspections conflict to a head. But they must now worry that a show of American reluctance to commit muscle to back up the inspectors in the future could encourage Saddam to create a new crisis sooner.

Two things have been clear in the White House review: The United States would respond automatically and unilaterally with force to any open deployment of chemical or biological weapons, or to any threatening move by Iraqi forces against Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. Stating these "red lines" publicly would be part of a policy that would put new emphasis on "deterrence" rather than "containment."

But under one set of proposals being urged on Mr. Clinton, the United States would not treat expulsion of UN inspectors as a trigger for strikes, despite suggestions in February that Iraq's reneging on the Annan deal would provoke an automatic U.S. military response that would be unilateral if necessary.

Some Clinton aides are urging

the president at the same time to move back from the strong language used then by Defense Secretary William Cohen and others describing Iraq's ability to conceal weapons of mass destruction as a threat to the human race.

Their case is based not on any desire to make life easier for Saddam. It is based on a grim recognition that the United States failed to generate support from its Arab allies and from its main Security Council partners for effective multilateral military strikes.

Unable to persuade Saudi Arabia to join strikes against Iraq, the Pentagon now reportedly puts backing up UNSCOM with automatic strikes in the "too hard" category.

The question that has to be faced is, "How do you maintain a coalition for sanctions if you do not take into account the views of your coalition partners on the use of force and inspections?" an official said. A Clinton aide added that the White House still hoped the Annan deal would hold.

This aide likened the current White House discussions to "making out a report card" on last winter's actions rather than a formal policy review that will lead to major change. That is a useful way to look at it if it reminds everyone that Mr. Clinton's grade on Saddam is still an incomplete.

The Washington Post



What if one of those rabbits or deer should attack me and all I had was a rifle?

Politics and a Dog's Life: Greetings From the Great

By Daniel S. Greenberg

WASHINGTON — To observe our dog's birthday some years ago, we solicited greetings from world leaders, informing them, by letter, that "our boy," Walter Labrador, would welcome a message on the occasion of his 10th.

The response was mixed but, overall, heartening. And now, on

Mr. Labrador," stating that "Mrs. Thatcher sends Walter her best wishes on his 10th birthday."

In a reprise of that sentiment, an aide to Tony Blair recently wrote that though the prime minister's "many other commitments allow him little time for such things," Mr. Blair had, however, asked the aide to send Ben his "very best wishes for a happy birthday on March 23."

Interestingly, in France, where the government is divided between a conservative president, Jacques Chirac, and a Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, aides to both sent warm greetings, as did an aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. From Israel a printed card bore the signature of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Most perplexing is the attitude of royalty. On Buckingham Palace letterhead, a signatory titled "Lady in Waiting" wrote that "because of The Queen's rules in these matters, I regret that it is not possible to do as you ask."

When I explain that many similar requests are received every day I feel sure that you will understand that it would be unfair to make any exception to this rule.

From "The Office of HRH The Prince of Wales," on the letterhead of St. James's Palace, came a slightly different reply, signed by an aide who stated that His Royal Highness "receives many similar letters every day and unfortunately cannot agree to them all."

A similar response was sent by the private secretary to the king of Norway. Noting "the many requests of this nature received by the King," he wrote, "I am sure you will understand that it will not be possible to grant your request."

Among several royal figures, the sole favorable reply was sent by the king of Belgium, via a private secretary, who wrote to "Dear Ben" that "the Sovereign charged me with the pleasant honour to send you his best wishes for a pleasant day."

The nonresponses constitute a mixed bag, including Boris Yeltsin, the emperor of Japan, the Pope, the king of Sweden, Newt Gingrich and Trent Lott.

Clearly needed: more research.

The writer is editor at large of Science & Government Report, a Washington newsletter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Domestic Brains

Regarding "U.S. Brains Alone Can't Power Silicon Valley" (Opinion, April 15) by Thomas L. Friedman:

Mr. Friedman is wrong. T.J. Rodgers, founder of Cypress Semiconductor, could have all the engineers he wanted — if he increased the salaries he offered. But he will not and he need not as long as foreign engineers are available at lower than true "market clearing" salaries.

Admittedly, most of those engineers would come from other electronics companies and this would result in a general increase in salary levels. But with that signal, more young people would find it worth the effort to take up mathematics and science, and after about eight years Mr. Rodgers would no longer be able to point to a shortage of American engineers. The idea that the United States

can cream off the top 10 percent of engineers worldwide to out-compete other countries is an outmoded, mercantilist, beggar-thy-neighbor policy.

Did the United States give or lend billions of dollars to developing countries and allow them to raise billions more, directly and indirectly, in U.S. capital markets so that they could provide engineers for the United States and perpetuate themselves as agricultural countries fit only to consume U.S. products?

PETER E. BEAL
Bangkok

Helms's Fault

Regarding "Human Rights Body Snubs U.S. on Cuba" (April 22): So the UN Commission on Human Rights vote against a U.S.-backed resolution critical of Cuban human rights policies is a "stunning defeat for the Clinton administration," according to a spokesman for Senator Jesse Helms. That is akin to blaming the rider for falling after you have shot the horse out from under him.

Our company is very proud to have been mentioned in an article

on your front page and we thank you very much, as you have made us known internationally.

Unfortunately, our company, Borchers, was mentioned in connection with war and with the sale of guns to regions of conflict.

Our company, for your information, is dedicated to the sale of goods related to hunting and sport shooting in Spain.

The article quotes a Borchers executive as saying that he could re-export weapons bought in the United States to another European Union country without approval from the United States. This is incorrect.

For every gun that we import from the United States, we must complete a document; one of the items stipulated is the country of end use. If we ask to sell in the EU, we can sell in the EU. If we ask to sell in Spain, we can sell in Spain.

RUDI BORCHERS,
Guernica, Spain.

JAMES H. BECHT,
Schweizingen, Germany.

Guns for Resale

Regarding "Alarmed Over Where U.S. Guns Go, Washington Seeks Re-export Controls" (April 20):

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RUDI BORCHERS,
Guernica, Spain.

JAMES H. BECHT,
Schweizingen, Germany.

BOOKS

A FINE SILVER THREAD: Essays on American Writing and Criticism

By James W. Tuttleton. 271 pages. \$26. Ivan R. Dee

Reviewed by Katherine Knorr

THE appreciation of American literature has suffered many handicaps in this century — from a continuing feeling of inferiority vis-à-vis European literature and from a tendency to break down into regional folklore — but nothing has been as harmful as the postmodern need to turn stories about men and women and the human condition into contemporary morality tales.

There are precious few literary critics who take a close look at the words, at the story, and give us some real sense of what American writers have written about America. James Tuttleton is one of these, and here he gathers here illuminating essays on American classics from Washington Irving to Edgar Allan Poe, Scott Fitzgerald and Louis Auchincloss.

Tuttleton, a professor of English at New York University, is interesting not only for what he has to say about specific writers, but also for what these collected essays, along with a 1996 collection, "Vital Signs," tell us about American intellectual history, which has been badly broadsided by the wish to rewrite the past to fit the present. Thus, Tuttleton examines not only the pervasive anti-Americanism among English critics in the 19th and early 20th centuries, but also what he sees as native-born anti-Americanism masquerading as snobism or radicalism. In his preface, he defends the seemingly simple idea that literature is not propaganda and that some books are better than others — anathema to large parts of the Academy today, who remain stuck in the underdog's reasoning that the personal is political. Ironically, Tuttleton cites James Baldwin's famous answer to

Richard Wright that all literature might be protest but all protest is not literature.

Unlike many books that bring together essays published in various reviews, this one has a clear intellectual unity. The question here is, exactly what is American literature and where does it come from? The answer is a complicated one, but Tuttleton is a master at tracing the European roots of even the most "native" of American literature, and at the same time in finding what is genuinely American exceptionalism. In so doing, he enriches our reading and encourages readers to go back to books and authors — like Irving and James Fenimore Cooper — that they may have left behind in high school English class.

Irving (Tuttleton edited and prefaced his works for the Library of America) craved fame in England at a time when there was little interest in American literature. He felt awed and humiliated by the weight of English literature, or as Tuttleton puts it: "How could Irving deal with Europe, make a name for himself, attain a literary identity in the world of Scott, Byron, Southey, Shelley, Wordsworth, Coleridge and Keats?"

The disdain of the English for American literature, and the associated feelings of anger and of humiliation felt by Americans, was reflected in another form within the United States, between New Englanders and the Knickerbockers or other New York writers who saw the Yankees as puritans carrying on a "pro-British literary cosmopolitanism."

In looking at James — the quintessential expatriate American, who returned so often to the theme of the straight and often native American and the complex and often evil European — Tuttleton also examines the American myth of Venice, the republic as an inspiration, its fall as an example of what could go wrong and eventually, of decadence and corruption. If we get a slightly different take on James, we also get a different look at his friend Edith Wharton, whose

books chronicled a certain American society, the battles of old and new money. Tuttleton here shows — and this is one of his themes — that when feminists and other contemporary theorists want to co-opt a writer to back up their theories they simply misread the books.

Another American who has been misread is Emerson, co-opted early on to the cause of socialist radicalism. Emerson, as Tuttleton points out, was an individualist who opposed greater government and who, insofar as he believed in reform, did so through the idea of the moral reform of the individual, something very different from utopian socialist thought.

Class and wealth played out in American literature very differently from English literature, and Tuttleton describes Fitzgerald's attitude toward money as "mingled envy and hatred of the rich man who might exercise a *droit de seigneur* and take away his girl." From there it is only a step to looking at Faulkner, Hemingway and Bowker reacted to the New Woman — very ambivalently, says Tuttleton.

In "Tracking the American Novel Into the Void," Tuttleton examines the American "romance" with its interest in the grotesque, rooted in Cervantes or D.H. Lawrence. From Poe to Thomas Pynchon, Tuttleton says, certain specifically American traits arise: "I can't think of another national literature so preoccupied with identifying the devil with man himself." He adds, "It is clear that the older utopian aspiration for a better world, dissolved into a landscape of dystopian nightmares."

To go a step further, "The notion of Armageddon and the Apocalypse are as American as apple pie, and — deeply rooted as they are in Christian millennial thought — descend to us from the Bible and from Puritan works like Michael Wigglesworth's 'The Day of Doom' and Jonathan Edwards' 'Notes on the Apocalypse.'"

International Herald Tribune

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

COMPUTERS have made a major impact on tournaments in the last decade. Scoring is now faster and more accurate, with directors freed from the drudgery of adding large numbers of match points and balancing the results. And some forms of competition are possible that used to be excessively slow and burdensome to score.

An example is the IMP pairs competition, now popular, which removes the artificiality of match points. The stress on overtricks and small advantages disappears, and the strategy is similar to that called for in team play and social bridge.

The diagramed deal was played at the Long Island Regional IMP Pairs in Hauppauge, South was Jeff Aker of Briarcliff, New York, who uses a strong one-club system. The opponents crowded

NORTH
♠ J 9 7
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q 8

EAST
♠ Q 8 4
♥ —
♦ —
♣ J 10

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ 8
♦ —
♣ A 5 2

the auction by bidding and raising hearts, after which South landed in a shaky no-trump game.

When the heart queen was led East beld up his ace and South also ducked, a good move. The suit was continued and the declarer won the third round. Five diamond winners were cashed, putting pressure on West, who discarded two spades. The position was then as shown at left: South was now able to cash the spade ace, exit with the heart eight and score two club tricks at the finish. Aker pointed out that West would probably have succeeded with a more imaginative defense. If he discarded one card in each black suit, thus unguarding the club king, and then dropped the

spade king under the ace, the declarer would have tried the same endplay and been defeated.

NORTH
♠ J 9 7 8 3 2
♥ 9 4
♦ J 3
♣ Q 8 7 4

WEST
♠ K 10 5
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♦ 9 5 2
♣ K 6

EAST
♠ Q 8 4
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ J 10 9 3

SOUTH (D)
♠ A
♥ K 8 7 3
♦ A K Q 7 6
♣ A 5 2

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding:
South: 1♣ West: 1♥ North: 2♥ East: 2♥
South: 3♦ West: 3♦ North: 3♦ East: 3♦
South: 3NT West: 3NT North: 3NT East: 3NT

West led the heart queen.

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In a Cheaper Asia, Hints of the Travel Joys of Yesteryear

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

ROVING around Asia on and off for the past dozen years, I've occasionally caught a glimpse of what it must have been like in the days when you could traverse some of the most exotic countries on earth for a few bucks a day.

As Asia grew rich in the '80s, travel became frightfully expensive. The planes to Ho Chi Minh City and Koh Samui, off Thailand, were packed. Office towers sprouted and some of the most luxurious hotels on the globe rose overnight, at prices that rivaled anything on Park Lane in London. It didn't matter if you were in Hanoi or New Delhi: Most countries had developed two economies, one for the locals and one for the new, cell phone-clutching clientele of Western investment bankers and Japanese salarymen looking for

sites for their next electronics factories. As the countries boomed, so did their currencies, and bargains evaporated.

Even Rangoon went upscale: The once-dilapidated Strand Hotel, which ran out of bottled water during my stay in 1986, was elegantly restored by international investors and started charging \$300 a night. The same happened to the Raffles in Singapore, which turned into a Disney version of its former self. There, you could spend \$400 a night or more, if you could get a room.

But today, suddenly, one can catch Asia on the cheap — if you are careful about where you stay and are willing to negotiate. The Asian financial crisis has emptied the airplanes and left hotels with 30 percent occupancy rates. In the hardest-hit countries — Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea — the dollar is once again king. Prices that were inflexible in the boom days are now subject to haggling.

But there are better reasons to visit. Countries reveal their true character when they are under stress: the cracks that no one notices during good times about their lives, their problems, their dreams — in ways that they will not when everyone is preoccupied with making easy money.

South Koreans responded patriotically to economic crisis by turning in their wedding rings and other jewelry. Malaysians, following the lead of their prime minister, blamed Western investors for their troubles and expelled foreign workers. Thais, discovering that Bangkok is no longer the land of opportunity, are going back to their villages — where there are few jobs.

My first stop was Jakarta. In past trips to Indonesia the whole country was prospering, and prosperity made it eerily apolitical. Now the pain is evident: Unemployment is rising, and

there have been protests in cities where basic food supplies are running short and fuel is getting expensive.

The bigger safety hazard to tourists has come from smoke generated by the fires that have consumed vast swaths of the country. But Indonesia has a history of volatility, so if things heat up, it's worth checking in with your embassy.

A TAXI HEAVEN To move around the city on my recent visit, I would hail one of the sleek black taxis that line up outside the nice hotels. With his meter running, the driver waited outside my various meetings for five hours or so and the fare usually came to about \$3.50 a day: for the first time in my life, I became a 200 percent tipper.

Then there was my room in the Shangri-La Hotel, where the lavish health club is clad in marble. I was accompanying a delegation from the U.S. Treasury. My standard room cost

a bit less than \$100 a night. When it became clear that I was going to be staying awhile, I inquired about one of the spacious suites. It would cost \$300 a night, I was told. But the assistant manager, acknowledging that the hotel was two-thirds empty, said I could have the suite for less than half-price if I paid in dollars instead of rupiah.

Many of Asia's hotels are doing the same these days: The luxurious Oriental in Bangkok quotes prices only in dollars — and has not officially lowered its rates, though it seems to be offering some deals. But at many others, rates are negotiable for the first time in a decade. Jakarta's big department stores still charge in the local currency, and so did one of the city's best makers of teak furniture. In Bangkok, at Jim Thompson, the silk purveyor, men's neckties had dropped from \$40 to about \$24.

Not all of Asia is on sale, however.

Hong Kong has refused to let its currency devalue, so its hotels and restaurants are still so expensive that they are losing business and tourists to its suddenly humbled neighbors.

JAPAN, always the most resistant to price cuts, is still expensive, although the yen has weakened more than 40 percent from the high it touched three years ago. Taiwan has survived the crisis unscathed and so has China, which has resisted enormous pressure to devalue its currency.

But for the rest of Southeast Asia, these next few months or years may be remembered as a great moment of opportunity for tourists and business travelers — the way some longtime Asian hands wistfully remember traveling Japan when the yen traded at 360 to the dollar. Those days are gone for good on the Japanese islands, and they may not last long in the rest of Asia.

A Meal Fit for a King From an Imperial City Epicenter of Vietnamese Cooking

By Molly O'Neill
New York Times Service

HUE, Vietnam — Most of Vietnam is bathed by a constant gold sun that blesses the land with rich rice paddies and fields ripe with vegetables and fruit. But around Hue, in the central region of the country, the light is mauve and the harvest is more hard-scrabble.

Yet Hue, once Vietnam's imperial city, has long been the epicenter of the country's classic cuisine. What the region lacks in bounty, its cooks have made up for in memory, taste and skill. There was, only 52 years ago, an emperor to feed. And there was enough wealth to support an imperial staff of 50 cooks, who scoured the globe for rare ingredients and used precious saffron with abandon.

When Vietnam was still a kingdom, cooking was its alchemy, changing earthly ingredients into holy meals for a king, a talent that was passed from father to son. Today, Hoang Xuan Minh, the owner of a modest restaurant here, is one of the few living links between the painstaking imperial cuisine and hurried modern cooking. His father was one of the last emperor's chefs.

Squatting between the three tiny concrete grills on the floor at his restaurant, Ong Tao, Hoang used chopsticks to turn tiny, oblong meatballs wrapped in mint leaves. Ong Tao means "kitchen god." As a gray haze rose from the charcoal grills, Hoang appeared to be performing a ritual over an ancient fire. His conversation was absolute, his touch light.

THE UNIFIER "The cooking of Hue makes the country one: past and present, north and south — united," he said. The base note of fermented fish sauce, or *nuoc nam*, was layered with the smoky smell of charcoal, the flowery scent of minced banana blossoms and lotus seeds and the strong, peppery smell of mint.

The papaya was green and tart, a perfect complement for minced beef rolls. The chicken that would be shredded for salad was slipping from his bones as it cooled. He had found wild asparagus for a soup made with fresh-water crabs that were lively enough to be battling each other in a galvanized metal pail.

Hoang, 53, wears the cloak of national culinary protector loosely. But he is adamant about preserving the soul — read: cooking — of Hue.

"If my cooking is fit for a king," he said, "those who eat will have respect for what was and hope for what can be."

The basic Vietnamese palate — the penchant for contrasting sweet and sour, cooked and raw, hot and cool, crisp and smooth, as well as the taste for ouoc nam — is consistent throughout the country. But in Hue, the contrasts are more vivid: The flavors are both more pronounced and more subtle, the cooking technique more precise, the ingredients more unusual, and the presentation more elaborate.

In northern Vietnam, the Chinese and then the French shaped the cooking. Traders from China, Thailand, India, and North Africa influenced the cooking of the rich, tropical bounty of the south. But in the country's craggy, narrow center, the tastes of other cultures were incorporated like so many grains of rice.

Over centuries, the multicourse style of the imperial court gradually seeped into daily life. The emperor, Hoang said, was served 50 courses, each prepared by one chef. His father, for instance, made steamed duck and only steamed duck every day for nearly half a century.

FLAVOR AND HEALTH

In addition to balancing the primary flavors — the sweet, sour, bitter, salty and peppery tastes whose sensations are, in the ancient Chinese system, directly related to physical and spiritual health — medicinal herbs were used in most dishes. In his father's duck, for instance, the orange-red annatto seed is used for its "cooling" effect as well as for the mildly tangy flavor it lends and the orange color it imparts.

The emperor's meals were served in progress. Commoners, however, are served 10 to 20 different courses simultaneously, along with heaps of bitter greens and herbs, particularly mint. Diners fashion miniature lettuce hand rolls and stuff them with small bits of food from the various dishes.

COM CO DOU, rice steamed in lotus leaves, is a Hue specialty. So is *com cno lau*, a dish in which mussels and their broth are mixed with banana flowers, peanut sauce, fish sauce, garlic and rice.

Hue cooks also take credit for inventing two seasoning mixtures, the five-spice powder of ground cloves, fennel seed, cinnamon, star anise, and turmeric and a blend of ground coriander, cardamom, fennel seeds, cloves, and turmeric.

As he garnished a plate of grilled vegetables and pickles, Hoang said that the plate had to look like the cosmos. The slices of red tomato represent the sun, the water-thin slices of star fruit symbolize the stars, the fig cut into quarters denotes the phases of the moon. On



One of the many food markets in Ho Chi Minh City.

the bonom of the plate, slices of green banana, bumpy with seeds, represent the imperfect earth. The shredded purple basil, yellow-tinged morning glory leaves and hair-thin slices of red pepper between his heaven and earth is meant to look like clouds, tinged by sun.

The time and effort required to turn each dish into a work of art is at odds with the pace of modern life. But in Hue, the mountains seem to protect the region from some of the industrial development that is rapidly changing the landscape, cuisine and culture in other parts of Vietnam.

Around Hue, there are fewer motorbikes, satellite dishes and fast-food outlets than in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. Life is slower. Large extended families share one roof. Buddhism has more influence than television.

But even so, the classic cuisine is as endangered as the forests and wildflowers whose dizzying scent gave the Perfume River its name.

The river, which bisects Hue and remains its major highway, now smells of the fish and produce that are ferried from town to town, as well as diesel fuel.

Hoang said that the political regime sent his father from the inner sanctuary of the emperor to a small house in the Citadel, the village that surrounds the imperial palace. But his father turned his home into a restaurant and continued his cooking.

"Our restaurant was protected as a cultural institution," Hoang said. He arranged his grilled minced beef around a crisp, tart salad of shaved green papaya with the conviction that the purity of taste and the flawless execution of the dish would triumph over time-saving cooking.

CERTAINLY, for two hours at his table, 15 or so of Hoang's dishes made hundreds sampled in Vietnam and in the United States seem one-dimensional and pale. Each taste is surprising and new, yet beneath the capriciousness of colors and flavors and textures, there is an interconnected whole.

Hoang waved off compliments. He shrugged off the complexity of his efforts. He said that his restaurant is, in the end, a selfish exercise.

"How else could I complete my life cycle?" he asked.

The Lush Life in Bali: It's Hard Going Home A Sensual and Spiritual Interlude

By Molly O'Neill
New York Times Service

JIMBARAN BAY, Bali — When the car door opens under the portico of the open-air lobby of the Four Seasons here, the first thing you notice is the smell of frangipani. Delicate, but all-pervasive, the flower's sweet scent is the ambient perfume of this luxury resort.

The second thing you notice is the smiles. Along with a handful of other exclusive resorts, the Four Seasons at Jimbaran Bay has created a world loosely based on the rituals and rhythms of traditional Balinese life. Here, the dark side of Bali — its savage ostracism of anyone who deviates from the island's tightly circumscribed interpretation of Hinduism, for instance — is eclipsed by the feel-good part.

Carefully selecting the essence of Balinese culture — its rituals, landscaping, traditional massage, native-grown flowers that scent its aroma therapy and indigenous ingredients that form the backbone of its cuisine — the Four Seasons has created an impeccably orchestrated play on all the senses aimed at calming, codding and rejuvenating guests.

World-weary sophisticates claim that Bali — once a haven for rock-and-roll stars and Asian business executives — is passé. These days, high-rise hotels line the coast and busloads of tourists roam the island. But many far-seeing hoteliers are reinterpreting the Balinese experience and, as a result, the sensual-as-spiritual interlude is issuing a new siren's call from the volcanic gardeo of the gods in the Indian Ocean.

This combination of refinement and mysticism is not the sole province of the island's exclusive hotels. The tiny, modestly priced inns that are sewn into Bali's far-flung hillside have long offered their own less polished version. Certainly, the overdeveloped road between Denpasar, the capital, and Ubud, the one-time artist's colony that has become the epicenter of Bali's tourism, is a thicket of souvenir stands, many offering Balinese "antiques" made to order. In that southerly region, tourists often outnumber family members at public Hindu cremation ceremonies, and T-shirt and soft-drink vendors work the crowds.

Nevertheless, Bali endures, especially if you are willing to travel beyond the well-established tourist areas — or pay the price. If, for instance, you have booked a \$525-a-night villa at the Four Seasons at Jimbaran Bay, you will glimpse tourist-scared Bali only in the 30 yards around the baggage claim area at the airport and from an air-conditioned sports utility vehicle that has been sent for the 20-minute ride to the resort.

The resort, which opened in 1993, is on 35 acres (14 hectares) of terraced, tropical gardens that sweep down to the long, isolated white beach of Jimbaran Bay. The 147 guest villas are clustered in seven "villages," but each villa is a private universe. In our three days there, we rarely saw a neighbor.

Within hours, we had slipped into a soft state of wonder in our villa, a walled universe with a huge, high-ceilinged bedroom and spa-size marble bathroom suite, which included a dressing room, a double tub, a separate walk-in shower and a small garden with an outdoor shower. The bedroom opened onto another lush, private garden with a small dipping pool.

The fruits that we loved best seemed to appear magically, glistening under beads of water, on the teak table under the thatched roof of our sitting room. opoe to the breeze. The coffee that was delivered on silent feet was miraculously brewed to our taste. The dipping pool was always the perfect temperature.

We wandered, over fragrant plates of lobster satay in the hotel's outdoor dining room, whether we'd been bewitched.

In the name of research, we submitted to Lular Jimbaran, the most popular spa offering. This pre-nuptial ritual includes a massage with sandalwood and ylang-ylang oil, followed by a body scrub using granular turmeric, ginger and rice powder, and then a rainwater shower. After this came a yogurt bath and a soak

in a bath full of flowers and perfume. Each time we ventured outside the resort, doormen greeted us by name when we returned. Welcome home, they added. Only in our dreams, we thought.

A few days later, as we bumped along the muddy roads toward our next destination, the Subak Tabola Inn in the central-eastern section of the country, we realized that in Bali, luxury resort style has been, well, modulated. In our Four Seasons villa, for instance, we'd been lulled by the gentle sound of man-made waterfalls outside our window. From the modest bungalow at the Subak Tabola Inn, a three-hour drive away, the squish of feet moving through the rice paddies in the field below was just as steady, though decidedly more human.

The inn, a large open pavilion with 11 bungalows, is tucked into the hills near Sidemen. A rutted road that was, until recently, a walking path that framed rice paddies is the only way to reach it.

Sitting deep in an old rattan chair at the pavilion's long, rough dining table, we surveyed the landscape — a surreal march of rolling plain, volcanic crater and terraced rice paddies. On a clear day, we could see the purple shadow of Mount Batur, but even in the mist, with the rain dancing on our bungalow's thatched roof, other mountains rose between the green valley and the blue sky.

The smell of sandalwood and clove, teak, frangipani and lavender mingle with the scents of wet earth and the beasts of burden that still pull heavy plows through the fields. The air is thin and fresh, cooler and slightly more abrasive than the soft air in southern Bali.

The sounds of daily life, the steady



A Balinese theater performance.

clack of the traditional Balinese looms, the thwack of the threshing cycle, the bang of spade against stone in the fields, children playing and women pounding pestles in mortars of volcanic rock filled with chilies and garlic, ginger, turmeric root and lemon grass — these everyday sounds do not intrude on the fundamental silence.

AT Tubak Sabola, there is no spa, no massage, no planned indulgence. Just the landscape, a tiny swimming pool, a dusty volleyball court, three simple square meals a day and the sound of the breeze working the lengths of hanging bamboo like flutes.

Our bungalow was a large, ceramic-tiled room, furnished with two easy chairs and a bed draped with mosquito netting. The hotel has electricity and plumbing, but many guests prefer the outdoor showers that adjoin bathrooms.

This simple inn infused us with the sort of gentle, sensual silence that is the antithesis of modern urban life. Then again, our initial, gold-standard hotel experience of Bali could have spoiled us for this naive, oo-air-conditioning-or-telephone equivalent. But after only a day, we were sad to leave Subak Tabola, where we dreamed mythological dreams full of dragons and Hindu gods, and thought of nothing beyond each moment.

The Sights and Smells of a Living Market

Keeping Cool and Fresh in the Heat of Ho Chi Minh City

By Mark Bittman
New York Times Service

HO CHI MINH CITY — It was dawn in the streets of Ho Chi Minh City, and the first smell that hit me was of grilled meat, instantly arousing my appetite despite the hour. But I couldn't eat just yet. Too much to see.

I had come to explore one of the city's vast indoor markets, about the size of your average convention hall floor and twice as crowded. Everywhere, vendors cleaned and chopped, washed and peeled. The food was sold whole (and often alive), or prepared for cooking (lemon grass was trimmed and minced, shallots peeled and chopped), or fully cooked. Huge pots of stock simmered on small gas stoves, and vendors offered roasted pork, beef, coffee, even crisped insects.

Brushing aside preconceptions about the Third World versus the West, I found myself asking whether I had ever been in a finer market than this one — for its variety, beauty, freshness and the appreciation of food it represented.

Look at the fruit: the spiked, football-

shaped durian, which smells like strong cheese; the fearsome-looking, but mild-flavored dragonfruit; mounds of cherry-size plums, and some fruits so strange that on second glance they might have been fish, or even meat — I'm still not sure.

I bought some jackfruit, which tastes like something between a pineapple and an overripe melon, dipping the yellow fruit into the mixture of salt, sugar and minced chilies that came with it. The combination of sweet fruit and piquant dip was exciting.

Chickens and ducks clucked in cages, while their vendors squatted to eat their morning *pho*, the omnipresent soup. A dozen jars of herb and spice pastes, looking like acrylic paints, caught my eye. I was invited to taste, and was jolted by the superconcentrated tastes of Southeast Asia: chilies, mint, cilantro and lime.

Disconcertingly, the market lacked refrigeration, despite temperatures that never failed to reach 90 degrees. Ice was a rare sight, reserved for the most fragile items, like squid.

But freshness was never sacrificed. Later on, in the Mekong Delta city of Soc Trang, I decided to see how this was

made possible. I awoke at 4 A.M., crawled out of bed, drank some leftover coffee and walked from my hotel to the center of town.

I was already too late: The food had begun arriving a few hours earlier. And as I soon learned, this was typical.

The markets are stocked in the middle of the night, when temperatures are relatively cool. The most perishable fruits and vegetables like lettuce, herbs and berries, are kept covered and moist. Fruits are packed in straw or corn husks, and then layered in barrels and kept shaded.

Poultry is alive. So are most fish and shellfish, which are held in shallow pools of constantly replenished water. Meat is slaughtered only in quantities that are likely to be sold that same day.

A REMNANT OF THE PAST As I wandered, I bought a typical sandwich (for about 15 cents) made of roast pork and a kind of pâté, with cucumber, cilantro, mint and minced chilies on a crusty baguette-type roll — one of the few remnants I found from the French colonial days.

Soc Trang's market is like a living organism, stretching for blocks and

reaching down alleyways and around corners. It has permanent stalls, tents that are set up daily and storefronts and is almost completely covered with small sheets of canvas, blue roofing tarps, ground cloths and anything else that will keep the heat of the sun off bodies and food.

I stopped at a small shop to eat a bowl of *pho*, broth filled with meat, noodles, chilies, scallions, lime, herbs, bean sprouts and more. And I bought a few things for the road: cut-up jackfruit and durian, and a crisp sandwich cookie filled with peanut butter and cilantro (a startlingly good combination).

By midmorning most of the choicest goods were sold. By afternoon, as I found when I stopped just before leaving town, many of the perishables were gone. Still, the smells were of fresh food, and it was difficult to find anything that looked unappetizing, let alone spoiled.

Vendors settled in to cook for themselves, washing dishes, building small fires, cooking in their stalls. The frantic market was growing peaceful, as it would remain until midnight, when it would be reborn.

LEISURE

Keeping Up With Explosive Shanghai

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — This city is in the middle of a huge makeover. As the largest and most cosmopolitan city in China, it often seems determined to be at the forefront of the nation's fast-changing ways. Today, that means it is undergoing a boom in construction so vast that officials like to boast that nearly one-fifth of the world's cranes are at work in their city.

For the visitor, the construction sites may make life a bit messy, but they give the city vibrancy. Shanghai is on the move, as its residents — undeniably the most urbane, flamboyant, sassy and arrogant people in the country — are proud to tell you. With a compact downtown area and a tendency toward narrow and winding streets, this is a wanderer's city. Leave the bicycles for Beijing and other places; Shanghai is best seen on foot.

It is easy to lose one's orientation, so the solution is to not even bother trying to keep your sense of direction; wander down any street that looks inviting. When too tired or lost to continue, hop in a cab. They are available virtually all over the city at any hour, and the address of a hotel or a next destination, written in Chinese, is all you need.

The main shopping streets, Nanjing Road and Huaihai Road, are good places to start any exploration. But the maze-like side streets are worth venturing into as well, with their close-up views of ordinary houses and back-street life.

In mid-June an exhibition of works by

the artist Tang Guo will be at Shanghai, one of the city's few galleries of modern art. Tang, who lives in Nanjing, uses ink, earth and other materials on paper. The gallery is in the Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 2/F, 1376 Nanjing West Road; (86-21) 6279-7135.

From May 2 to June 1, the Shanghai International Arts Festival will feature a series of dance, music and theater performances. For a schedule and ticket information, contact the Shanghai Performance Advertising Company at 6466-5938.

The greatest addition to the city's cultural life in recent years is the Shanghai Museum, with by far the most magnificent, and most magnificently displayed, collection of art in China.

A striking-looking structure that took some inspiration from an ancient Chinese urn, the new museum seems to embody Shanghai's cosmopolitan nature, and sets a new standard for showing art in this country. The overall design, the layout of galleries and the specially built display stands all combine to enhance a visitor's appreciation of the museum's first-rate bronze, porcelain and jade collections: 201 Remin Avenue, in People's Square, 6372-3500. Open daily from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission: \$5.

No visitor to Shanghai should miss a walk on its majestic waterfront, known as the Bund, where the buildings once run by old British banks and trading houses still dominate the view. The old tree-lined esplanade that hung over the river was replaced a few years ago with

a more modern one, losing some character but gaining a better view of the bustling river traffic.

A dozen blocks south of the Bund is the Old City, which remained under Chinese control in the days when the English, French and Japanese carved out their own concessions. The narrow and crowded streets preserve an air of old Shanghai, and give way to a central area known as Yu Yuan, a classical Chinese garden.

That air of old Shanghai can also be found in the Ruijin Guest House, 118 Ruijin Second Road, 6472-5222, fax 6473-2277. The grounds of what was once an elegant mansion have been kept up well, in a quiet and secluded part of town, and one can easily spend a sunny afternoon lounging on the well-manicured lawns, sipping lemonade. Its 100 rooms cost \$75 to \$125.

COSMOPOLITAN SHANGHAI The Metropole, at 180 Jiangxi Road, 6321-3030, fax 6321-7365, downtown near the Bund, has an ornate lobby that seems to capture cosmopolitan Shanghai of the colonial era. It has a charming, dark wood-paneled bar, but its 120 rooms are plain. \$30 to \$75.

Budget: The 120-room Qingnian Hui Hotel, at 123 Xizang Road, 6326-1040, fax 6320-1957, is centrally, if noisily, situated on a crowded shopping street. It is also known as the YMCA Hotel. A second-floor ballroom is home to daily dances populated mostly by a charming clientele of retirees. Rooms cost \$40 to \$60.

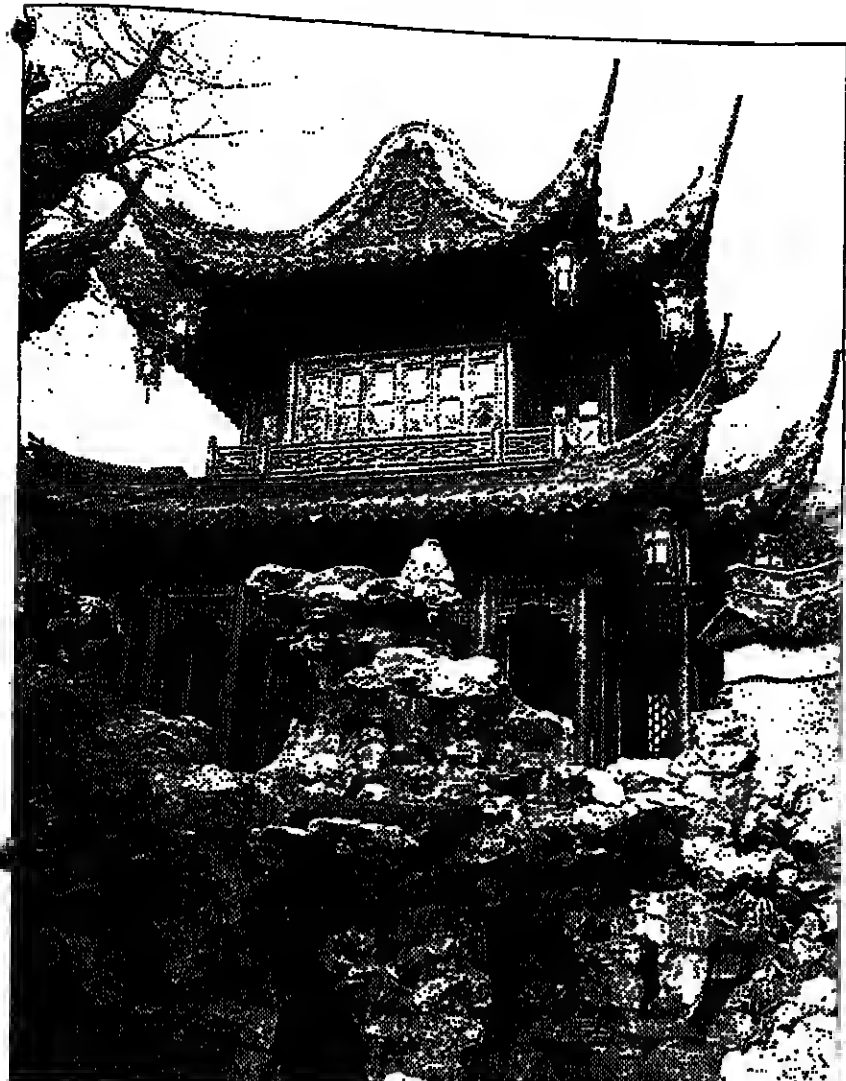
Down by the waterfront, the most

magnificent of Shanghai's pre-revolution hotels is the Peace Hotel, 20 Nanjing East Road, 6321-6888, fax 6320-0300. Recently renovated, it has a stately Art Deco lobby and bone-and-walnut decor. A jazz band of elderly gentlemen still plays in the ground-floor bar each evening. Its 280 rooms cost \$120 to \$350, and the ornate Chinese restaurant on the eighth floor has a grand view of the harbor.

Green Willow Village, in the heart of Shanghai's shopping district at 763 Nanjing West Road, 6258-4422, is one of the city's oldest and most distinctive restaurants, known as Luyang Cun in Chinese. Decorated in a simple, old-fashioned style, it offers a Yangzhou cuisine famous for its Mandarin fish in pine nuts, prawns in hot chili sauce and soft-shelled turtle with dried orange peel. A four-course meal for two will cost about \$40 (including beer; wine is not available).

For more traditional Shanghai fare, try Lao Ban Zhai, 596 Hankou Road, 6322-3668, with such specialties as steamed long-tail fish in anchovy sauce, and pork meatballs cooked with crab-meat. A four-course dinner for two is \$25 to \$30, including beer.

A more typically popular Shanghai dining experience awaits at Tin Tin Seafood Restaurant, 807 Julu Road, 6247-2362. At one end of a large, noisy dining room, a stage show includes heavily sequined singers of Chinese pop songs. While you listen and watch, try the stir-fried river shrimp or bullhead fish in brown sauce. Dinner for two, with beer, is \$30.



The classical Chinese garden Yu Yuan, in the Old City of Shanghai.

Cutting the High Cost of Calling

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

BUSINESS travelers know that the best way to avoid extortionate hotel phone charges (markups of 900 percent or more) is to use a telephone charge card, or calling card, or a mobile phone. But making and receiving voice or data calls is a complex equation of cost, convenience and quality of the line, depending on where you are and where you need to call.

Mobile phone calls can cost five times more than calling card calls, but are still far cheaper than hotel charges. Calling cards can save up to 70 percent on hotel calls, but in turn can be as much as five times more than using cash or a local prepaid phone card in a pay phone or from an office or residential phone.

Everyone is sold on calling cards. The question is which card is best for where you are and where you want to call. Charges between cards can vary by more than 50 percent. For example, a five-minute call from Japan to Britain costs \$9.99 (\$16.70) with a BT Chargecard, \$8.25 with a Cable & Wireless Calling Card, \$6.99 with a World Telecom Global Calling Card and \$4.53 with an AT&T Global Calling Card.

Calling cards all work in a similar way. You call a toll-free number from any telephone, either speak to an English-speaking operator or enter your account number and PIN in response to voice prompts and the call is then connected. You can either buy a certain amount of call time using your credit card and top it up as you go along, or settle an itemized bill every month, showing exactly who you called, from where and for how long. Many companies require that travelers will be reimbursed for phone calls only if they are made with a calling card.

A RELIABLE ROUTE

Major telecoms such as AT&T, BT and Cable & Wireless (which owns Mercury in Britain) use their own networks to route card calls. If you make a call from Bangkok to London using an AT&T card, for example, you will be routed via the AT&T network rather than the local Thai system. Other card providers like World Telecom and Interglobe do not own their own phone lines but buy spare capacity at a discount rate from the major telecoms — sending calls along the cheapest and most reliable route.

Then there's the question of line quality because some calling card companies reduce costs by "compressing" calls to get more on a line. This may be O.K. for voice, but not for data calls like faxes or trying to retrieve your e-mail.

"What we're finding from research is that travelers are taking incoming calls on their mobile phones and making outgoing calls with their calling cards," a BT spokesman in London said. "The reason is you get a better call quality using a fixed line and there's less risk of a call dropping out midway through. Business people use audio-conferencing more and more and calls tend to be fairly long. So a calling card is a good means of participating."

Calling card companies compete for space in your wallet with a galaxy of



"added-value" services, such as speed-dial "short-codes" for frequently dialed numbers; "follow-on" call facilities (which can save money on hotel access charges); travel and business services; fax mail, which delivers all your fax messages to the number of your choice; message forwarding, which sends your messages to any telephone in any country for the time of your choice. Some cards have a call-back facility to avoid high local or hotel phone charges.

There is no overall cheapest calling card. AT&T has the lowest costs for calls from the United States and from the Far East and Middle East, but tends to be more expensive than other major cards for calls within Europe. It has the advantage that it avoids value-added tax on calls that originate outside Europe.

Here are some points to consider: • Decide which type of calls — voice or data — you are most likely to make or receive and how flexible you need to be. You can meet most contingencies with a clutch of calling cards and a GSM (glob-

al system for mobiles) digital cellular phone along with your laptop.

• Have at least one major calling card programmed into your laptop for message calls.

• If you travel a lot to certain countries, it may be worthwhile taking out a local GSM subscription, which gives you a local number at local rates. This avoids exorbitant charges of having calls routed back through your home country. Rules vary. In the United States, the receiver pays for a mobile call from overseas; in Europe, the sender pays. In some countries you can buy prepaid cards for your mobile that allow you to make and receive domestic calls. You pay slightly more than the local mobile rate. But there's no subscription and the phone number comes with the card. France Telecom, for example, sells a *mobilecarte* costing 270 francs (\$45), which is good for 30 minutes of calls within France. Once the credit has been used up, you can recharge it by buying a "scratch card" for 144 francs, which gives you another 30 minutes.

• Deciding which calling card is cheapest and most convenient depends on which countries you are visiting and the countries you are calling. When calling back home, say to France or Germany, it's usually cheaper to get a card from France Telecom or Deutsche Telekom, especially if it is billed to your home or office account where you may be able to pick up discounts. But look out for exceptions. Using a BT Chargecard from Australia to Britain costs about twice as much as an AT&T Global Calling Card or a Global One Calling Card, according to a report in *Holiday Which?* magazine published by the Consumers' Association in Britain.

• When calling to third countries, or within a region such as Europe or Southeast Asia, you may find it cheapest to use a calling card issued by a telecom company in one of the countries. The cheapest way to phone within a foreign country is to use a local pre-paid phone card or cash at a pay phone.

• You can apply to use your American Express, Diners Club or Visa card as a telephone calling card. Charges can be competitive with major calling cards.

• How important is line quality versus the cost of a call? Would you use "added-value" services such as sequential dialing, ability to send and receive voice and fax messages, multilingual operators or conference calls? What are the charges for these services?

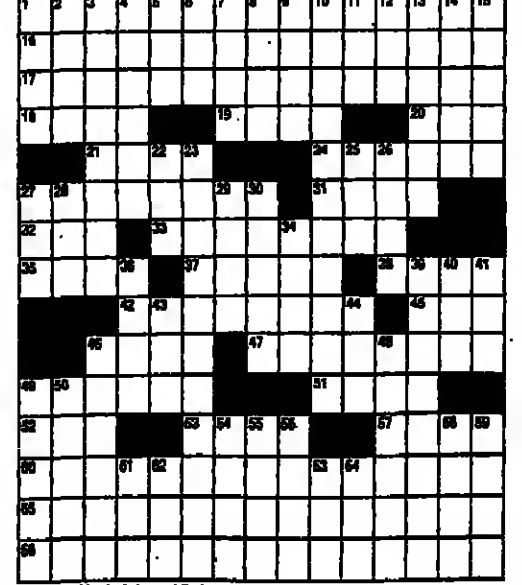
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Secret weapon
 - 17 View
 - 17 Brunch order
 - 18 Plean pronoun
 - 19 Large knife
 - 20 Mini feature?
 - 21 Profess
 - 24 Double-dealing
 - 27 Wicked place
 - 31 Poet portrayed by Vincent Price in "Son of Sinbad"
 - 32 Have it bad?
 - 33 Leading Edinburgh newspaper, with "The"
 - 35 Scope

Solution to Puzzle of April 23

MISTY OVER GERM
ENERO RASA BROO
AGROON OF ONE
NEAT DUST ATSEA
SETS EZRA
JACK THE RIPPER
ISAYA LIT OWED
BET SOLITARY LINE
SACK BAD WINER
THE LONCHANGER
TIER RUN
SPOCK BATS EDDA
AYTHERES THE GRUB
ALOU KNIT MEADE
BEEP TODAY URGED

- DOWN**
- 1 Site of a bishop's seat in early churches
 - 2 Ending with bi- or tri-
 - 3 Not permanent
 - 4 Fleet runner
 - 5 It's made from 48-Across
 - 6 Switch ups?
 - 7 Slangy denials
 - 8 College much seen in crossword
 - 9 "I" for Claudius
 - 10 Place for a noddle
 - 11 — Bad Wolf of comic books
 - 12 Toronto-to-Ottawa dir.
 - 13 Flexible reply to an offer
 - 14 Nay-sayer, perhaps
 - 15 Kind of aircraft
 - 22 Overhead lines
 - 23 Weekend college event
 - 25 Elhan's "Gottschalk" co-star
 - 26 See-through item
 - 27 Wether report?



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THE BUTCHER BOY

Directed by Neil Jordan, U.S.

Set in a picturesque Irish town and featuring a freckle-faced young hero in knee pants, "The Butcher Boy" may look familiar at first. But as the real, disturbing nature of Neil Jordan's audacious film emerges, this story moves far outside the realm of the ordinary. Jordan's films at their best ("Mona Lisa," "The Crying Game," "Interview With the Vampire" and now this) are perversely comfortable on such difficult terrain, contemplating the hidden extremes of human nature. The filmmaker's gift for genuinely shocking his audience is, for him, an essential way of telling the truth. So consider Francis Brady, the rambunctious hero of the novel by Patrick McCabe on which this strange, astonishing film is based. Pugnacious and brazen, Francis moves from boyish pranks to more twisted behavior in a story that culminates in startling violence. Among its lingering echoes is a hint of the childish viciousness lately seen in Jonesboro, Arkansas, as it eerily captures the thinking of a reckless, affected small-town boy. Remarkably, almost every scene in the film is carried by Eamonn Owens' performance as Francis, though the star is an Irish schoolboy whose only previous international exposure was marching with his youth band in New York's 1995 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Francis' high spirits fly in the face of adult family problems. His father (Stephen Rea, Jordan's frequent star) is a musician and a drunk, while Francis' mother (Aisling O'Sullivan) is prone to frightening mood swings and bitter quarrels with her husband. There are days when a picture of his parents on their honeymoon is all Francis has to sustain him, but he is not a 12-year-old to suffer in silence. Roaming the town with a pal named Joe, Francis tries his hand at hoodlums while watching his parents' lives fall apart. The



Eamonn Owens in "Butcher Boy."

focus of his hatred becomes a woman named Mrs. Nugent (Fiona Shaw), who puts on English airs and has had the effrontery to call Francis' father names. Sinead O'Connor plays the vixenish Virgin Mary of the boy's daydreams in a film that sees religion through the boy's distorted lens. When Milo O'Shea, as a priest, makes sexual advances to Francis, he puts the boy in a bonnet more fitting to a child's fantasy than a grown man's. Francis' wily, headstrong voice through all his tumultuous experiences — including work in pea bags and electroshock therapy — is the film's own evidence of a free spirit. Never compromised by false piety or adult morality, it remains defiantly honest, startlingly pure.

SADA

Directed by Nobuhiko Obayashi, Japan.

We know Sada Abe as the protagonist of Nagisa Oshima's 1976 masterpiece, "In the Realm of the Senses." It was she, you will remember, who, having accidentally killed her lover, detached and kept one of those parts of him she loved best. From this real-life story, Oshima

made one of his most compelling films: a fully frontal tragedy that had nothing pornographic about it. Following an apparently immutable rule — first tragedy, then farce — Nobuhiko Obayashi, working with a film by Yoko Nishizawa script, now shows us how repressive society brutalized our heroine at an early age, how her yearning search for love led her to such extremes, and how she (maybe) finally found peace with herself. Perhaps in order to stifle the yawns, Obayashi has tricked this all out with color, black-and-white, slow motion, fast forward, some frantic acting and lots of Japanese local picturesqueness that gets 1936 all wrong and doesn't care. Pretentious but cute, the film wants to be both a woman's picture and a knowing send-up. Obayashi's strong point is usually his insolence, but here nonchalant unconcern becomes small-mindedness. Sada deserves a lot better. (Daniel Ritchie, JHT)

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Directed by Steve Gomer, U.S.

If I didn't know better, I'd say Barney the dinosaur had it in for Cody Newton, a 9-year-old boy whose greatest crime is that he doesn't believe in 6-foot-tall talking purple dinosaurs. Let's just say that when Barney is around, bad things happen to Cody (Trevor Morgan). While the dinosaur is doing his first song-and-dance number, he "accidentally" knocks the boy over, then "lets" him be tossed off a wheelbarrow. Well, that's what he gets for being the closest thing to a villain in "Barney's Great Adventure." Barney the PBS television star's first feature film, which his young, undemanding fans are likely to enjoy. Baby Bop and B.J., Barney's smaller dinosaur friends, drop in briefly, as does an excruciatingly adorable new character: Twinkin. (Anita Gates, NYT)

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA Palais Harrach, tel: (1) 525-24403, open daily. Continuing/To Aug. 9: "Henry Moore." More than 80 sculptures and 40 drawings by the British sculptor (1898-1986).

BELGIUM

BRUSSELS Musée d'Art Ancien, tel: (2) 508-3211, closed Mondays. Continuing/To June 28: "Rene Magritte." 200 paintings, gouaches, drawings and objects by the Belgian Surrealist (1898-1967).

BRITAIN

LONDON Tate Gallery, tel: (171) 887-8000, open daily. Continuing/To May 17: "Bonnard." Nearly 100 landscapes, still lifes, interiors, bath-room pictures and self-portraits by the French painter (1867-1947). www.tate.org.uk

CHINA

BEIJING Longevity Pavilion, Museum of the Forbidden City, tel: (86) 10-85-32-244, Continuing/To May 15: "Heavenly Heroes." Objects dating back to the Neolithic that attest to Chinese veneration of the horse.

FRANCE

PARIS Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing/To June 29: "L'Art au Temps des Rites Maudits." Documents artistic creativity in Paris and the provinces during the final decades of the French royal house of the Capetians from 1285 to 1328. Also, to July 20: "Dalacroix: Les Dames Anées, 1850-1863." More than 100 paintings and drawings by the French painter.

ITALY

VENEZIA Palazzo Grassi, tel: (41) 522-1375, open daily. Continuing/To June 28: "Picasso, 1917-1924: The Italian Voyage." Works by Pi-

casso following his 1917 trip to Rome, where he worked on decor, stage curtains and costumes for the Ballets Russes. www.palazzograssi.it

SPAIN

VALENCIA Museo de Bellas Artes, tel: (6) 368-3088, To May 5: "Los Hermanos: Pintores Hispanos en el Entorno de Leonardo." Paintings by Fernando Yanez and Fernando Llanos, better known as Los Hermanos. Their works, created at the turn of the 16th century, reflect the strong influence of the Italian Renaissance.

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, tel: (212) 423-3300, closed Thursdays. Continuing/To June 3: "China: 5,000 Years." Several hundred artworks ranging from 3000 B.C. to the Qing dynasty. Guggenheim Museum SoHo, tel: (212) 423-3500, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Continuing/To May 25: "China: 5,000 Years." Modern and contemporary Chinese works, complementing the uptown exhibition. www.guggenheim.org

SUMMER FESTIVALS

Today, the Arts Guide lists some of the music festivals under way or due to start next month. Festivals starting in June will be listed on Friday, May 15.

DRESDEN, GERMANY Musik Festspiele, tel: (49-351) 48-86-317, fax: 48-86-307, May 18 to June 1. At the Semperoper, performances of Janacek's "Jenufa," Strauss' rarely performed "Friedenstag," Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri" and "Aida." Matthias Pirschar's "Thomas Chatterton" and Siegfried Matthys's "Farnhall."

represent contemporary 20th-century opera. The music of Mendelssohn's "Elias" (May 18) and Handel's "Saul" (May 31) fills the Kreuzkirche. Appearing in recital are Theo Adam, Vassilina Kasarova and Anna Sophie Mutter. www.musikfestspiele.com

FLORENCE, ITALY

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, tel: (39-55) 211-158/213-535, fax: 277-8410, April 21 to June 20. Under Zubin Mehta, first conductor, Semyon Bychkov, first guest conductor, and Roberto Abbado, respectively, the festival offers performances of Alban Berg's "Wozzeck," Shostakovich's "Lady Macbeth of Mzensk" and Rossini's "Comte Ory." Manfred Gurli's "Wozzeck," composed at about the same time as Berg's, receives its Italian premiere in a concert version. In June, orchestral concerts are performed under Seiji Ozawa and Lorin Maazel.

www.maggiofiorentino.com

GLYNDEBOURNE, ENGLAND Glyndebourne Festival Opera, tel: (44-1273) 813-813, fax: 814-688, May 21 to August 28. The season offers 75 performances of six operas, including three new productions: "Così fan tutte," Handel's "Rodelinda," and Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra." The revivals are Strauss's "Capriccio," with Kiri Te Kanawa and Felicity Lott attempting in the countess's role; Rossini's "Comte Ory," in a Jerome Savary production, and Janacek's "Katja Kabanova."

JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV

The Israel Festival, tel: (972-2) 624-0698, fax: 624-4535, May 24 to June 14. The festival brings to Israel a variety of performers from almost 20 countries. The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, under Riccardo Chailly, opens the festival in Tel Aviv (May 24) and Jerusalem (May 25). Gil Shohat's commissioned "Song of Songs" brings together an orchestra, choir and soloists from three countries (Jerusalem, June 4). The festival also offers various theater, dance, jazz and ethnic music performances. www.festival.co.il

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INTERNATIONAL

Convicted Assassin of Martin Luther King Dies

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — James Earl Ray, 70, the petty criminal who confessed to assassinating the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., then recanted and spent decades seeking a trial, died Thursday of liver failure.

Mr. Ray, who was serving a 99-year prison sentence for the 1968 murder, had been hospitalized repeatedly since 1996. He died at a hospital in Nashville, the Tennessee Department of Correction said.

By pleading guilty in March 1969, Mr. Ray avoided the possibility of a conviction at a trial and a death sentence. He then argued for years that he was coerced into making the plea.

His attempt to get a trial drew an unlikely coalition that included his family as well as Dr. King's family and other civil rights leaders who believe Dr. King, who was 39 at the time of his death, was the victim of a murder conspiracy, not a lone assassin.

Shortly after Mr. Ray pleaded guilty, Coretta Scott King, the slain civil rights leader's wife, said there had been "many fingers which helped pull the trigger."

More recently, arguing for a trial, she said: "Even if no new light is shed on the facts concerning my husband's assassination, at least we and the nation can have the satisfaction of knowing that justice has run its course in this tragedy."

On Thursday, the King family issued a statement saying they were saddened by his passing and regretted that the country would never see a trial that would have shed light on the crime and alleged conspiracy.

"This is a tragedy, not only for Mr. Ray and his family but also for the entire nation," Mrs. King said in the statement. "America will never have the benefit of Mr. Ray's trial, which would have produced new revelations about the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. as

well as established the facts concerning Mr. Ray's innocence."

Dexter King, one of Dr. King's four children, met with Mr. Ray in 1997 at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville and said he no longer believed Mr. Ray killed his father.

But prosecutors cited the evidence against Mr. Ray and said that courts had repeatedly upheld the guilty plea.

Dr. King, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, was shot April 4, 1968, while standing on a second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He was in town to lend support to striking sanitation workers.

The assassination touched off race riots in more than 100 cities and set off one of the biggest manhunts in U.S. history. Mr. Ray, a fugitive from a Missouri prison where he had been serving time for robbery, was staying in a flophouse near the Lorraine at the time of the assassination. He fled Memphis shortly after the shooting and was captured in London two months later.

When he pleaded guilty the following year, he endorsed a detailed description by investigators of the way the crime happened. The prosecutor, Phil Canale Jr., said there was no evidence of a conspiracy. He did not outline a motive for the killing or accuse Mr. Ray, who was white, of being a racist.

Even though he had told the judge he understood the plea could not be appealed, Mr. Ray began trying to take it back three days later. He claimed he was set up by a gun dealer he met in Montreal and knew only as Raoul, and said he was changing a tire when the shooting happened. Authorities have never established any connection between Raoul and the slaying, and courts have said there was no evidence anyone else was involved.

In a report this March, prosecutors said the person identified by Mr. Ray as

Raoul existed but was not involved in the killing. His name was not released. Prosecutors said the man was in another city when Dr. King was shot.

The U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded in 1978 that Mr. Ray was the killer but said a group of white supremacists in St. Louis, Missouri, who reportedly paid a \$50,000 bounty on Dr. King's head, might also have been involved.

The House committee issued a report on the killing, but its investigative files are sealed until the year 2029. Civil rights groups have lobbied for those records to be opened.

Mr. Ray's last legal effort concentrated on tests he wanted conducted on

the rifle that prosecutors say was the murder weapon. It had been purchased by Mr. Ray and was found near the murder scene moments after Dr. King was shot, with Mr. Ray's fingerprints on it. But Mr. Ray claimed it had been placed there to frame him.

In the 1970s, ballistics tests by the FBI and a congressional committee failed to prove beyond a scientific doubt that the rifle was the murder weapon, though Dr. King was killed with a similar gun.

Mr. Ray's lawyers argued that more sensitive tests developed since the 1970s might show the gun was not the murder weapon. But tests conducted after a court ruling in 1997 also proved to be inconclusive. (AP, Reuters)



Mr. Ray taking the oath at a congressional hearing on the killing in 1978.

ARABS: In the Palestinian Diaspora, 3 Brothers Took 3 Roads

Continued from Page 1

remained in Israel took up the truncated existence of refugees. The rest were scattered, largely around the Arab world, many in refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Egyptian-controlled Gaza. They lived from sacks of UN rations and in temporary shelters that many have never left. Others ended up in the Gulf, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

"Do Americans know our land was taken by force?" Ibrahim Shikaki asked recently, sitting in his living room in Rafah, the muzzin's call to prayer piercing the early evening air. "Do they care? There were United Nations resolutions demanding we be allowed to go back to our land. But they were not enforced. America imposes resolutions on Iraq but not on Israel."

For most Israelis, the idea of Mr. Shikaki staking claim to vicariousness is chilling. His first-born, Fathi, founded the Iranian-backed Islamic Holy War, whose stated goal is to destroy the Jewish state through armed struggle.

In 1995, six weeks after a suicide bomber of Islamic Holy War killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American student in a September attack on a bus in the Gaza Strip, Fathi Shikaki, in transit to his base in Damascus, was assassinated in Malta. It is nearly universally assumed both here and abroad that his killing was the work of Israeli agents.

Fathi Shikaki was born in a Gaza refugee camp in 1951 and, like many others, his early years were marked by hardship and displacement. Two-thirds of the one million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip are refugees or their descendants, and half of them are still in camps.

The man who would later view Ayatollah Khomeini as a model and promote street knifings and suicide bombings was a gifted pupil who won a scholarship to medical school in Cairo. He later combined his practice as a physician with gun-running until jailed and ultimately deported by Israel in 1988.

Fathi Shikaki was a man of warmth and natural leadership who impressed nearly all who met him with his verbal skill and nuanced mind. He also was among the

first proponents of violence in the Islamic camp. One of the most thoughtful and critical analysts of Fathi Shikaki's work is his brother Khalil, 44, the second son of Ibrahim and Khadra Shikaki and a political scientist who rejects violence and works closely with Israeli scholars.

Khalil Shikaki, with a doctorate degree from Columbia University in New York, is a professor at Al Najah University in the West Bank city of Nablus and director of the Center for Palestine Research and Studies, one of the few independent research institutes in the Arab world. He says the split between him and his late brother over how to handle the tragedy that befell their parents is common in Palestinian families.

"The national and Islamic ideologies have taken over from the family as a structural unit," he said.

If the split between Khalil Shikaki and his older brother, Fathi, offers a Palestinian case study, it is their brother next in line, Abdullaziz, 42, who may be more emblematic still. Another good student, he won a scholarship to Egypt to become a pharmacist. His association with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt led to his expulsion from the country after he completed his studies.

Abdullaziz Shikaki considers his Islamic militant brother a hero. He says he believes that suicide bombers who attack Israelis go to Paradise. He dismisses the 1993 deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on

Palestinian autonomy as a sham and insists that there can be no peace or justice until his family wins back its ancestral farmland, a move no Israeli government would countenance and a goal that the Palestinian Authority has effectively abandoned.

And yet Abdullaziz Shikaki's actions reveal a hidden pragmatism. He owns a building in Rafah that houses his pharmacy along with a variety shop belonging to another brother, Khaled, and apartments for many of the clan's families. Moreover, he is part of a consortium of pharmacists and doctors who are establishing the first pharmaceutical factory in the Gaza Strip.

Due to open this summer, the Middle East Company for Pharmaceutical Industries will employ 60 full-time workers. Designed by Israeli engineers, with whom Abdullaziz Shikaki has met regularly, and based on international standards, the \$2.5-million enterprise occupies a bright new building near the Israeli border.

The young Shikakis profess an attachment to their father's old village but none have ever gone there. They seem intent, most of all, on rebuilding their shattered society in their new home.

Abdullaziz Shikaki, offering one of his more radical assertions, caught himself. He insisted that he would give up all he owned in Gaza for "one square meter" of his family's ancestral land and the right to return there. Then he laughed and said, "I can dream, can't I?"

HAVEL: As He Falters, So Do the Czechs

Continued from Page 1

out," wrote a columnist, Adam Drda, in the Lidove Noviny newspaper on Wednesday. "The Czech Republic is going through a crisis, the political scene is unstable. The president is one of the essential institutions — sufficiently stable not to change according to momentary electoral emotions. That is why he should be strong."

The economic miracle that gave Czechs low unemployment and a living standard unmatched in Central Europe collapsed last spring, when rising trade and budget deficits saw the currency fall 25 percent as investors realized the country's recent growth was merely an illusion built on debt, fraud and the redistribution of its once abundant wealth.

The vaunted political stability collapsed when revelations that Mr. Klaus's party had accepted cash for favors in the post-Communist privatization process forced the Thatcherite prime minister to resign in November. Since then, despite an interim government of competent technocrats, no party has been able to win the voters' confidence, and polls forecast no clear winner in parliamentary elections scheduled for June.

The social peace that kept many Czechs thinking their country was only a short hop from the European Union has also frayed as the extreme right has grown to nearly 12 percent of the electorate. Neofascist skinhead groups proliferate and violence against foreigners and gypsies is rising.

Sex crimes, fraud, bribe-taking by the police, political scandals, the decay of health care and the withering of the education system have debunked yet more of the myths that the Czech Republic was a gentle paradise.

Unemployment is nearly 6 percent and rising, and inflation is just over 13 percent.

"Frankly the situation is not good in this country," said Richard Falir, leader of the Czech and Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions, the country's largest labor group. "The population is tired. The changes have produced a great disillusionment with democracy and capitalism."

The chattering classes are now speculating on a potential successor to Mr.

Havel. Names bandied about range from Education Minister Jan Sokol, a Havel confidant and former dissident, to the loquacious Senate president, Petr Pithart, also a longtime dissident.

One government insider said he could see only one other candidate with the moral standing and nationwide respect necessary to hold the post — interim Prime Minister Josef Trosovsky, the former central bank governor and a one-time member of the Communist Party.

For Czechs, keeping Mr. Havel in the presidency has been a salve to their consciences as they wholeheartedly pursued the task of making money during the Klaus years.

But analysts and the more insightful politicians say the country's real problem is that it has run out of steam. The current system of government and institutions has simply exhausted itself. Privatization, says Jiri Vecernik, an economist, did little more than transfer wealth from the state to a small group of new rich.

To get through a coming crisis, Czechs may have to learn to let go of Mr. Havel.

"Society has to come to trust the institutions, not the concrete personalities," said Vladimir Mlynar, minister without portfolio in the new government.

EURO: In Bonn, a Straddle

Continued from Page 1

said. Just as the euro will create transparency for price differences for products and labor across national borders, different levels of living standards also will become comparable, Mr. Schroeder said.

The euro will highlight "the living standards in Germany, which we have, thank God, and which we want to preserve," he continued.

Going to the heart of one of Germany's biggest fears with the euro, Mr. Schroeder warned that rich European nations like Germany might have to bail out poorer nations.

Unemployment is as much of a threat to the euro's stability as the high debt levels in Italy and Belgium, he added, referring to the two euro candidate nations whose inclusion has aroused the most concern in Germany.

Despite Mr. Schroeder's skepticism, he began his speech with an endorsement of the project.

"The introduction of economic and monetary union on Jan. 1, 1999 is correct," he said.

Mr. Kohl, who has built his re-election campaign on his quest to put Germany at the heart of a unified Europe, called the Bundestag decision on whether to go ahead with the euro one of "the most important decisions of the century."

Taking a few jabs at Mr. Schroeder, who is known for shifting his positions on the euro and other foreign policy matters, Mr. Kohl said that the "opportunists of the day perhaps can make hay for the moment" with their attacks on the euro. But he added, "The visionaries of the past are the realists of today."

"I am certain that in just a few years acceptance of the euro will be the same as that of the mark," he said. "I also am certain that in a few years those who said 'no' and had a counterproposal to the euro will deny that they ever held such a position."

Wang's 'Mixed Feelings'

Free in U.S. but 'Disturbed' About Leaving China

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nine years after Wang Gang helped lead an ocean of young people through Tiananmen Square to implore China to expand democracy, he spoke out Thursday with a more lonely, ambivalent voice.

"My feelings right now are mixed," Mr. Wang said at a news conference.

"On the one hand, I am naturally delighted to breathe free again, especially since I can now live and study in a free country like America," he said.

"But on the other hand, I feel disturbed at having been forced to leave my own country, to live separately from my family, relatives, and friends, and all of my compatriots, without knowing when, if ever, I will be allowed to see them again."

His actions as a charismatic 20-year-old college student made Mr. Wang one of China's most-wanted fugitives. Now 29, Mr. Wang was released Sunday after nearly six-and-a-half years in Chinese prisons and put on a plane to the United States.

He said Thursday that he had been unwilling to leave China, but during his first release, from 1993 to 1995, close government scrutiny prevented him from doing anything. So this time he chose medical parole, effectively ending him.

Despite the medical parole, Mr. Wang appeared healthy and fit, showing no

visible effects of his imprisonment. He said getting an education would be a higher priority now than political activism.

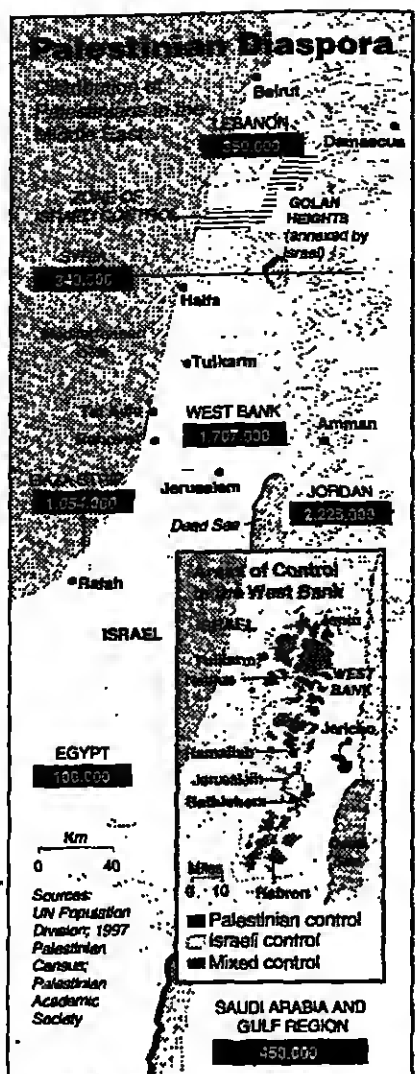
The questions surrounding his freedom are much the same as in November, when Wei Jingsheng, a longtime dissident, was released to his own life of exile: What role will he play? And, perhaps most crucially, what does his freedom mean to U.S.-China relations?

"There are no random events with the Chinese government," said Bill Ward, a business administration professor at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania who studies modern China.

"I think the Chinese have consistently looked at us and said, 'We'd like to continue to expand a relationship with you and we'll do good things to help you, but we're also going to show you we're still in charge here,'" Mr. Ward said.

Mr. Wang said President Bill Clinton should raise the question of political prisoners when he is in China. "This one aspect sticks out," he said. "There's probably no one country on earth that has as many political prisoners as China."

Mr. Wang served three-and-a-half years in prison before his 1993 release. Two years later, he was convicted of plotting to subvert the government and sentenced to 11 more years, only to be released early.



How It Came To Be

In 1947, Arabs rejected a UN plan to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. In 1948, Israel declared independence and Arabs attacked. By the end of fighting, 700,000 Palestinian Arabs had fled or been driven from Israel.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip, home now to about 2.7 million of the estimated 7.9 million Palestinians worldwide, were occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. Under a 1993 agreement, Israel began withdrawing its forces from these territories.

NYT

Aide to McCartneys Misled Media on Where Linda Died

The Associated Press

LONDON — Sir Paul McCartney's spokesman admitted Thursday that he had misled the media about where Linda McCartney died, and he described reports of an assisted suicide as "judicious."

"Linda did not die in Santa Barbara, she died in another place," Geoff Baker told NBC's "Today" show, acknowledging that he had been the source of reports that she had died in Santa Barbara, California.

Carla Lane, a close friend of the family in England, confirmed that Mrs. McCartney had died in Arizona.

"When the illness became more serious, she went there because she loved it above all places and that's why she went and that's where she died," Ms. Lane said.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department has said it will investigate why no death certificate was filed for Mrs. McCartney, who died Friday from breast cancer at age 56.

The department also said the inquiry would not be dropped until the location of her death could be verified. Mr. Baker said he had misled reporters to protect the family's privacy.

"Let them have one tiny, private place," he said.

Sir Paul, meanwhile, called for an end to the speculation.

"Our family has received many

beautiful messages of sympathy from ordinary people around the world," the former member of the Beatles said Thursday. "Reading their messages, we know that ordinary people would want our request for simple privacy to be respected. This is a personal request from me."

Mr. Baker lashed out at reports of an assisted suicide that he said had originated in the media. The suggestion "that there was some form of assistance in this death is just preposterous and ludicrous, absolute nonsense," Mr. Baker said.

Dr. Larry Norton, Mrs. McCartney's New York oncologist, said Wednesday that she had died of natural causes.

The Arizona Daily Star and KVOA-TV of Tucson quoted unidentified sources as saying the Pima County medical examiner had authorized her cremation. A University of Arizona cancer specialist signed the death certificate, they said.

Pima County and state officials said death certificates are exempt from Arizona's public records law and cannot be disclosed.

A British newspaper, The Independent, quoted locals as saying that Mrs. McCartney's body had been cremated at the Bring Funeral Home in Tucson. A worker at the funeral home refused to comment.

Doctor-Assisted Suicide, Illegal in U.S. Also Is Rare, a Poll Finds

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In the intense debate over physician-assisted suicide, one question has always gone unanswered: How often does it occur? Now, the first national survey to examine how frequently doctors help people to kill themselves finds that while patients often ask for help, they rarely get it.

Nearly one in five doctors of 1,902 surveyed who care for seriously ill and dying people reported that they had been asked, on one or more occasions, for assistance in speeding a patient's death, either by writing prescriptions for lethal drugs or delivering a lethal injection.

But a little more than 3 percent said they had ever written the prescriptions, mostly to patients who had less than six months to live.

Just under 5 percent said they had administered lethal injections to patients on their deathbeds — a figure that the study's authors said reflected "the double effect" in which painkillers, given to relieve suffering at the end of life, also hasten the

patient's death.

The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 1 percentage point, but varied for other questions.

"It is odd that there is such strong public support for legalization of assisted suicide, and we find there is so little of this actually occurring," said Dr. Diane Meier, an associate professor of geriatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, who was the lead author of the study. Dr. Meier, an early proponent of legalization, has since changed her mind.

The majority of doctors who granted the requests to hasten death said they had done so only once or twice in their careers. That translates into a very small number of patients affected, said Dr. Kathleen Foley, director of the Project on Death in America, a foundation in New York that sponsors research on the end of life.

She could not provide a precise figure but estimated that only a fraction of 1 percent of the 2.4 million Americans who die each year do so with help from their doctors.

"However you do the numbers," she said, "it's minuscule."

One reason it is so rare is that it is illegal. When the doctors were asked if they would write lethal prescriptions, defined as assisted suicide, if it were legal, 36 percent said they would. And 24 percent said they would administer lethal injections, defined as euthanasia, if the law permitted it.

The study, published Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine, is renewing the divisive debate over legalization.

Proponents and opponents interpret the study's findings in different ways, with advocates for legalization saying that it confirms that the practice exists underground and should be brought out in the open.

"This might be acceptable from a physician's perspective, but from a patient's perspective it is absolutely unacceptable," said Barbara Coombs Lee, executive director of Compassion in Dying, a group based in Portland, Oregon, that sought unsuccessfully to have the Supreme Court declare a constitutional right to die. "There is no way to assure that patients who are truly desperate are getting to the physicians who are willing to break the law."

Polls have consistently shown that a majority of

Americans, from 60 percent to 70 percent, favor legalizing assisted suicide for patients who are mentally competent and have less than six months to live. So far, only one state, Oregon, has done so, in an experiment that is being watched closely around the nation.

Although other surveys have tried to assess the prevalence of physician-assisted suicide, they have been limited to doctors who treat cancer and AIDS patients, or those instances where the issue was in the forefront. A 1995 survey in Oregon found that 7 percent of doctors had written lethal prescriptions, while a 1994 survey of New England cancer specialists found that 13.5 percent had.

None of those studies was as carefully conducted or statistically sound as Dr. Meier's research, said Dr. Joan Lynn, who directs the Center for Care of the Dying at George Washington University.

The study identified a variety of reasons why doctors help their patients die. Severe discomfort, other than pain, was the most common reason, followed by loss of dignity, fear of uncontrollable symptoms, actual pain, loss of meaning in life, being a burden to one's family and dependency on others.

Big Firms Post a Solid 1st Quarter
Crisis Takes a Toll
U.S. Profits Hold Firm

Warning: Page 14

CURRENCY

Big Firms Post a Solid 1st Quarter

Asia Crisis Takes a Toll, But U.S. Profits Hold On

U.S. corporate earnings continued their ascent Thursday, led by strong performances by blue-chip consumer products and technology companies, but gains were moderated by factors ranging from debt write-offs to lawsuits to global financial turbulence.

Procter & Gamble Co. reported net earnings of \$961 million for its third quarter, up from \$881 million a year earlier, on higher revenue and sales volume.

Global sales for the consumer-products giant totaled \$8.9 billion, up 1 percent from the 1997 quarter. Excluding the effect of weaker currencies, primarily in Asia and Western Europe, sales increased 6 percent, the company said. Global sales volume rose 3 percent, with the difference in sales and volume growth caused primarily by price increases in all regions, P&G said.

Asian earnings fell 81 percent because of unfavorable exchange rates and higher product investment. The company said the Asian business climate was expected to remain difficult for at least the rest of the year.

Asia also weighed on Microsoft Corp. The software powerhouse reported a 28 percent jump in earnings in its third financial quarter, to \$1.34 billion, but also warned that revenue would be little changed for at least two quarters until Windows 98 and other new products kicked in.

Microsoft said a financial crisis in Asia, a possible slowdown in PC sales and the effect of the "year 2000" computer problem would weigh on results. It does not expect a significant sales pickup until next year, when the new version of its Windows NT software used to run corporate computers comes out.

WorldCom Inc. said first-quarter profit rose to \$193 million, more than expected, as the No. 4 U.S. long-distance phone company saw higher sales and call volume.

WorldCom, scheduled this year to complete its \$41.8 billion acquisition of No. 2-ranked rival MCI Communications Corp., is gaining from a move into Internet, data, international and other fast-growing businesses. The company's sales growth of 38 percent, to \$2.35 billion, far outpaced its competitors' gains.

American Express Co. said first-quarter earnings from operations rose 15 percent, to \$520 million, as the number of cards increased and cardholders spent more. A \$138 million provision for credit losses in Asia made net income \$460 million in the latest quarter. Revenue rose 8.6 percent, to \$4.52 billion.

American International Group Inc., the biggest publicly held U.S. insurer, said first-quarter earnings rose 13.5 percent, led by gains in its financial services unit.

Net income, which included a gain of \$35.7 million from sales of investments, rose to \$886.5 million.

A year earlier, a \$30.3 million gain on investment sales lifted net income to \$780.9 million.

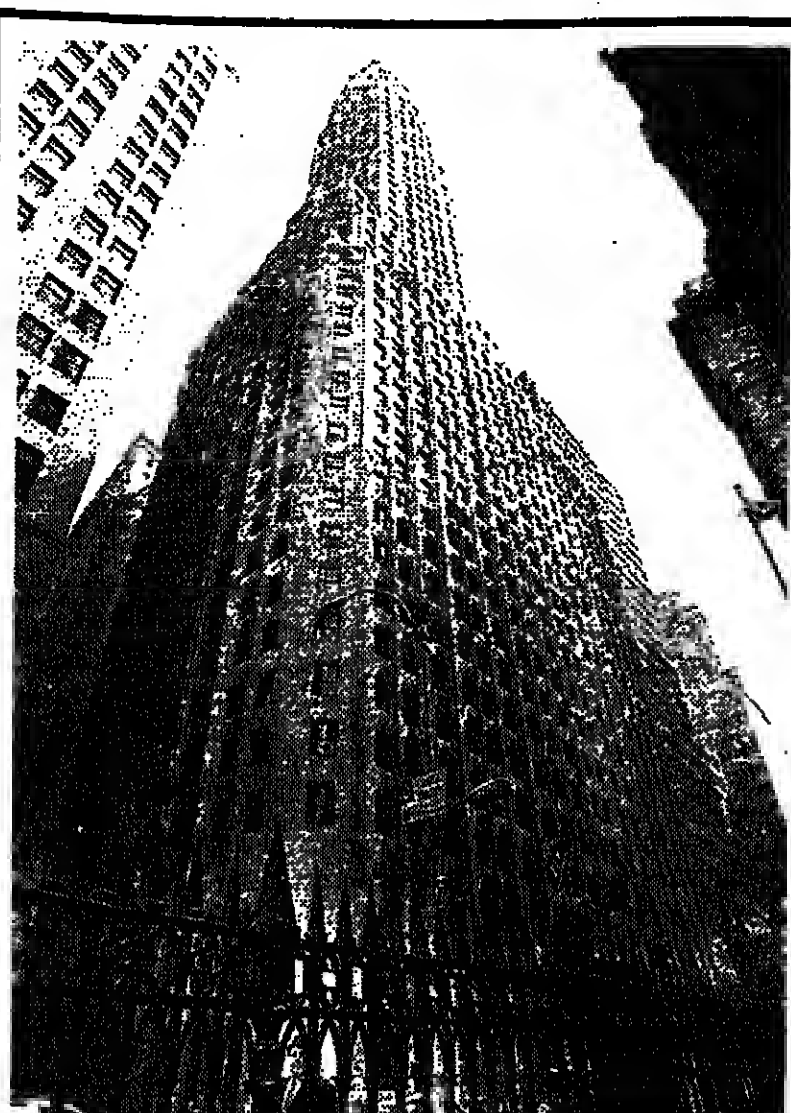
AT&T's financial-services business — mainly securities trading, derivatives sales and aircraft leasing — earned \$187.1 million in the first quarter, up 40.3 percent from the year-earlier period. Pretax profit in life insurance rose 19.3 percent, to \$412.9 million, and property and casualty insurance earnings advanced 9.8 percent, to \$625.7 million, before taxes.

Sears, Roebuck & Co. saw its first-quarter earnings fall 27 percent in the first quarter, but the results still beat expectations on Wall Street.

Net income fell to \$133 million, or 34 cents a share, in the quarter ended April 4 from \$182 million a year earlier.

The second-largest U.S. retailer said results had been hurt by problems with uncollectible credit accounts, discounting to clear merchandise and a shift in

See EARNINGS, Page 14



Mellon Bank Sues Its Unwanted Suitor

Mellon Bank Corp. sought an injunction Thursday to stop a hostile bid by Bank of New York Co., whose headquarters is pictured here, asserting that the company had used information from merger negotiations that failed last year.

WALL STREET WATCH

Low Forecasts Make Profits Look Good

By Robert O'Harrow Jr.
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — U.S. corporate profits for the first quarter are beating expectations. But then, expectations were virtually nil. And that, some analysts say, should give investors pause.

"I laughingly call it 'the better than recently revised downward' earnings," said Henry Herrmann, chief investment officer of the mutual fund company Waddell & Reed. "Big deal."

The mixed message about the first quarter stems in part from the way Wall Street keeps track of company performance. Analysts routinely revise what they expect companies will earn in a given quarter, depending on sales, economic conditions and other factors. Their projections are often influenced by interim reports from companies.

By the time earnings are reported after the quarter has ended, the analysts' expectations often have changed. When

the bar is lower, analysts and money managers say, it is easier for companies to get over the top and appear to be performing well.

The drop in expectations for the companies that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index was larger in the first quarter than it has been in years. On Jan. 2, the companies were expected to earn an aggregate 10.4 percent more in the first quarter last year. Since then, analysts' growth estimates have dropped to just 0.5 percent.

More than half of the 282 companies that have released earnings reports so far exceeded the lower expectations, according to First Call, a research firm that tracks corporate profits. Profits for those companies increased on average about 4.5 percent.

That figure likely will end up being just 3 percent to 4 percent, the smallest increase since 1991, according to First Call. That is in part because analysts expect late-reporting energy companies

Acer to Buy Siemens' PC Plant

Purchase Could Help Taiwan Computer-Maker Join the Top Ranks

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Acer Inc., the home-grown king of Taiwan's computer industry, made a bid Thursday to lift itself into the top tier of global computer makers by announcing that it would acquire most of Siemens AG's personal-computer unit.

The deal to purchase the manufacturing operations of Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems AG will help Acer penetrate the European PC market and place Acer among the top five computer-makers in the world, said Stan Shih, the chairman who has relentlessly pursued making Acer a global brand. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed.

At the same time, the deal will allow Siemens to get rid of a division that it failed to build into an efficient competitor, analysts said.

Mr. Shih said in Taipei on Thursday that Acer would buy a personal-computer factory from Siemens Nixdorf. He declined to disclose the price but said the cost would be easily financed.

The plant, in Augsburg, Germany, has 2,450 workers and plans to produce 1.4 million computers this year. Most of the machines will go for sale under the Siemens Nixdorf brand, although Acer will use the factory to make computers under its own brand as well.

Acer will become Siemens Nixdorf's exclusive partner in supplying branded PC-based products under the agreement, officials said.

Mr. Shih described the arrangement as a marriage, but analysts said the pair made an odd couple: a trendy Asian upstart wed to a German conglomerate that has had trouble pursuing some of its high-tech ambitions.

Starting with capital of just \$25,000, Mr. Shih and some associates founded

Acer in 1976. Since then, they have quickly adapted to global computer demand, investing in local manufacturers and using sophisticated marketing techniques to help build the company into the only one of the world's top 10 personal-computer manufacturers based outside Japan or the United States.

Acer now produces more than 6 million personal computers annually, including more than 800,000 notebook computers. Mr. Shih said he plans for annual production to reach 10 million by next year.

One of Germany's oldest, largest and most wide-ranging conglomerates, Siemens has been criticized for its inability to react to changing markets or whip lagged units back into shape.

Under Heinrich von Pierer as chief executive officer, Siemens has shed activities that accounted for more than 5 billion Deutsche marks (\$2.79 billion) in sales over the past year, including its defense-technology and dental-technology units. The company has also spent more than 1 billion DM to reorganize unprofitable units, including its transportation systems and medical engineering operations.

Some analysts questioned whether the deal was enough.

"This is just a small step; it's certainly no decisive move for Siemens," Franz Hoebel, a fund manager at Allianz Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH told Bloomberg News.

"Siemens has proved itself a slow

player in comparison to other international companies such as an ABB or a Philips."

Siemens shares fell 2 DM Thursday to close at 111.30. Although the deal was announced after the close of trading, Acer shares closed at 66 Taiwan dollars (\$2), up 2, on an early confirmation that the pact was in the works.

For Acer, the deal is an opportunity to tap Siemens' European knowledge.

The Augsburg site is a valuable building block that will strengthen Acer's position in Europe and reinforce Acer's already advanced mass production network, Mr. Shih said.

Although 20 percent of Acer's sales worldwide last year went to Europe, the company had just a 3.2 percent of total European market share in the last quarter of 1997.

"Taiwan companies do not have much exposure to Europe," a Taipei-based analyst at SBC Warburg Dillon Read said. "The market is so fragmented with so many languages and cultures that it is difficult for an Asian company to build up a base."

The Siemens deal follows up Acer's acquisition of Texas Instruments Inc.'s stake in a Taiwan chipmaking joint venture. The scope of the venture, however, still left the company with only limited horizons, as the joint venture made dynamic random-access memory chips for only one customer: Texas Instruments.

John Schmid contributed to this report from Frankfurt.



JOLLY DOCKERS — Union members celebrating after the Melbourne Federal Court upheld a decision ordering Patrick Stevedores to rehire the 1,400 dockworkers it fired two weeks ago. Page 17.

See PROFITS, Page 17

Investors Seek Hyperlink to Riches

By Robert O'Harrow Jr. and Mark Leibovich
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Even by the dizzying standards of today's U.S. stock markets, analysts say a "buying panic" has seized Internet stocks.

Shares of an array of obscure companies have soared to unprecedented levels in recent days. Some of the companies have no products. Others have no earnings. But they all have buyers.

After one company announced it would sell products on the World Wide Web, its stock shot up from \$6.50 a share to nearly \$45. When a research company said its data would be on America Online, its stock nearly tripled.

A handful of other companies posted increases of 100 percent during a speculative frenzy that started Tuesday in the shares of companies that had cemented some tie to the Internet, the global communications network.

"It's like a mania," said Michael Driscoll, chief stock trader at Hambrecht & Quist Group, a San Francisco-based brokerage concern that specializes in high technology. "Any way, shape or form it has ties to the Internet, and they're buying it like bananas."

See NET, Page 17

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

April 23									
Libor-Libor Rates									
Cross Rates	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	9-Month	12-Month	18-Month	24-Month	36-Month	48-Month
Australia	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Brussels	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Frankfurt	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
London (to)	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Madrid	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Milan	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
New York (to)	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Paris	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Tokyo	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Toronto	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
Zurich	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
1 SDR	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775	1.0775
April 23									
Key Money Rates									
United States	Today	Prev	Britain	Today	Prev	France	Today	Prev	Germany
Discount rate	5.00	5.00	Bank base rate	7.00	7.00	Call money	3.00	3.00	Call money
Prime rate	5.50	5.50	1-month interbank	7.00	7.00	1-month interbank	3.00	3.00	1-month interbank
90-day CDs (best)	5.37	5.37	3-month interbank	7.00	7.00	3-month interbank	3.00	3.00	3-month interbank
180-day CDs (best)	5.40	5.40	6-month interbank	7.00	7.00	6-month interbank	3.00	3.00	6-month interbank
30-year T-bond	5.08	5.08	10-year GAT	5.85	5.85	10-year GAT	4.98	5.00	10-year GAT
April 23									
Other Dollar Values									
Currency	Per \$	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency
Argentine peso	0.9999	311.68	Malay. ring.	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77
Australian \$	1.5323	7.2491	Phil. peso	48.40	48.40	48.40	48.40	48.40	48.40
Canadian \$	1.2111	7.2491	Polish zloty	19.36	19.36	19.36	19.36	19.36	19.36
Chinese yuan	8.279	8.279	Ross ruble	183.69	183.69	183.69	183.69	183.69	183.69
Czech koruna	33.45	33.45	Saudi riyal	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Danish krone	6.4606	6.4606	Sing. dollar	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600
East German mark	3.418	3.418	Swiss franc	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786
Egypt. pound	3.418	3.418	Thai baht	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Fin. markka	5.4399	5.4399	Yen	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600
Forward Rates									
Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day
Swiss franc	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786	Japanese yen	1.3600	1.3600	1.3600	Japanese yen	1.3600
Canadian dollar	1.2111	1.2111	1.2111	Swiss franc	1.4786	1.4786	1.4786	Swiss franc	1.4786
Deutsche mark	1.7930	1.7930	1.7930	Thai baht	3.75	3.75	3.75	Thai baht	3.75

Compaq Sets Share Buyback

Bloomberg News

HOUSTON — Compaq Computer Corp.'s board approved a plan to buy back as many as 100 million shares in a move to bolster investor confidence and help buoy the computer maker's lagging stock price.

The buyback represents 6.7 percent of the company's 1.53 billion shares outstanding and would be worth \$3 billion at current prices.

Compaq shares, which had fallen 18 percent in the past two months, were up 43.75 cents at the close at \$28.9375. But some analysts said the use of cash to support the stock price might come at the expense of investing in critical areas such as research into new products and technologies.

THE LIVING LEGEND



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THE AMERICAS

Dollar Slips Ahead of Japan Plan

Bridge News
NEW YORK — The dollar slipped against the yen Thursday amid concerns that Japan could spring a surprise when it announced details of its latest economic stimulus plan Friday.

Dealers said market speculation centered on whether the Japanese government would relax its fiscal reform law to give it room to add to the 10 trillion yen (\$76 billion) of new spending expected to be included in the stimulus plan.

The foreign-exchange markets are also concerned that the Bank of Japan might intervene, as it did when the draft of the stimulus plan was announced April 9, to drive the yen higher, dealers said.

"The whole world is pounding the table asking the Japanese to do

something, and here we go again with another package," said Grant Wilson, a trader at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

"All the Japanese government does is set us up just to disappoint us again. They have to deliver something."

The yen also strengthened on

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

comments by Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, Eisuke Sakakibara, who said, "If and when we intervene in the currency market, we will be doing so to think about making profits."

The dollar rose against the Deutsche mark on comments from a Bundesbank council member, Hans-Juergen Krupp, that the do-

mestic demand in Germany was still weak.

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar was at 130.145 yen, down from 130.400 yen Wednesday. The dollar also was at 1.7983 Deutsche marks, up from 1.7935 DM; at 1.4897 Swiss francs, up from 1.4860 francs, and at 6.0300 French francs, up from 6.0145 francs.

The pound slumped to \$1.6650 from \$1.6721 after a published report that a Bank of England monetary policy committee member, Charles Goodhart, moved from the interest-rate "hawks" to the "doves" at the committee's meeting this month. The shift could signal weakening resistance within the British central bank to cutting interest rates.

EARNINGS: Big Companies Turn In a Solid 1st Quarter

Continued from Page 13

The Easter holiday selling season to the second quarter. Sales rose 5 percent, to \$1.6 billion.

RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. said first-quarter earnings dropped 16 percent because it spent more to advertise its Winston, Camel and other cigarettes as rival Philip Morris Cos. took more of the U.S. market.

The No. 2 cigarette maker said net income fell to \$179 million.

In other earnings news, first-quarter profit fell 47 percent, to \$259 million, as crude oil prices dropped to nine-year lows. Of the major U.S. oil companies, Texaco got the biggest share of its profit from find-

ing and producing oil, making it one of the hardest hit by falling prices.

• **Monsanto Co.**'s first-quarter earnings fell 4.9 percent, to \$196 million, as increased research and development spending offset growing sales of its agricultural and pharmaceutical products. Revenue rose 9 percent, to \$2.04 billion.

• **Sara Lee Corp.** reported a 10.2 percent increase in third-quarter earnings, to \$227 million, largely on strong gains in its packaged meats and bakery division. But the company posted a loss of \$826 million for the first nine months as earnings were depressed by an after-tax restructuring charge of \$1.6 billion.

• **USX-Marathon Group** said first-quarter net income declined

57.8 percent to \$76 million. The diversified oil and steel group said special items lifted pretax profit to \$183 million, but that income from continuing operations was slashed by falling oil prices, to \$5.5 billion.

• **Maytag Corp.** reported record first-quarter net profit of \$72.3 million, up 46.7 percent from \$38.5 million as new appliance models led strong sales gains. Revenue increased 30.8 percent, to \$1.04 billion, from \$795.2 million.

• **Bankers Trust Corp.**'s first-quarter earnings rose 14 percent, to \$222 million, beating Wall Street estimates as its investment banking profits nearly doubled from a year earlier. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Federal-Mogul Plans Job Cuts

Bloomberg — Federal-Mogul Corp. said

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan — Federal-Mogul Corp. said Thursday it would fire 4,200 people, or about 10 percent of the auto-parts company's work force, to consolidate recent acquisitions and become more efficient.

The job cuts and a related pretax charge of \$48 million against first-quarter earnings were about twice as large as the moves the company previously said it anticipated.

Federal-Mogul is absorbing its \$720 million acquisition of Fel-Pro Inc., based in Skokie, Illinois, and its \$3 billion acquisition of T&N PLC of Britain. The acquisitions will help double its sales to \$5 billion annually, but the company will have to do significant pruning to produce satisfactory profit gains, analysts said.

"As a stronger, more focused company, we are moving quickly to integrate and expand," Dick Snell, Federal-Mogul's chief executive, said.

Federal-Mogul also cut its quarterly dividend to 0.25 cents a share from 12 cents, saying it now believed that "dividends are not the best way to deliver value to shareholders."

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 23, 1998					High Low Last Chg Opt					High Low Last Chg Opt					High Low Last Chg Opt								
Grains					High Low Last Chg Opt					High Low Last Chg Opt					High Low Last Chg Opt								
CORN (CBOT)					100 bushels - cents per bushel					100 bushels - cents per bushel					100 bushels - cents per bushel								
May 98	2.47	2.53	2.54	+2.4	45.93	May 98	2.47	2.53	2.54	+2.4	45.93	May 98	2.47	2.53	2.54	+2.4	45.93	May 98	2.47	2.53	2.54	+2.4	45.93
Jul 98	2.54	2.60	2.61	+2.9	124.21	Jul 98	2.54	2.60	2.61	+2.9	124.21	Jul 98	2.54	2.60	2.61	+2.9	124.21	Jul 98	2.54	2.60	2.61	+2.9	124.21
Aug 98	2.64	2.65	2.67	+4	117.12	Aug 98	2.64	2.65	2.67	+4	117.12	Aug 98	2.64	2.65	2.67	+4	117.12	Aug 98	2.64	2.65	2.67	+4	117.12
Sep 98	2.68	2.69	2.71	+4.9	9.09	Sep 98	2.68	2.69	2.71	+4.9	9.09	Sep 98	2.68	2.69	2.71	+4.9	9.09	Sep 98	2.68	2.69	2.71	+4.9	9.09
Oct 98	2.77	2.78	2.79	+4.9	9.09	Oct 98	2.77	2.78	2.79	+4.9	9.09	Oct 98	2.77	2.78	2.79	+4.9	9.09	Oct 98	2.77	2.78	2.79	+4.9	9.09
Nov 98	2.84	2.81	2.84	+1	4.54	Nov 98	2.84	2.81	2.84	+1	4.54	Nov 98	2.84	2.81	2.84	+1	4.54	Nov 98	2.84	2.81	2.84	+1	4.54
Est. sales 72,000 bushels 3.074					Wheat open at 1.79, 2.02					Wheat open at 1.79, 2.02					Wheat open at 1.79, 2.02								
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)					100 bushels - cents per bushel					100 bushels - cents per bushel					100 bushels - cents per bushel								
May 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jul 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Aug 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Sep 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Oct 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Nov 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Dec 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 98	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jan 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Feb 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Mar 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Apr 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
May 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jun 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jul 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Aug 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Aug 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Sep 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Oct 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Nov 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Dec 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 99	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jan 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Feb 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Mar 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
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May 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jun 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jul 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Sep 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Oct 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Nov 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Dec 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 00	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jan 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Feb 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Feb 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Mar 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Mar 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Apr 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Apr 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
May 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	May 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jun 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jun 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jul 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jul 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Sep 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Sep 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Oct 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Oct 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Nov 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Nov 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Dec 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Dec 01	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Jan 02	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 02	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 02	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83	Jan 02	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27.83
Feb 02	14.01	14.01	14.02	+3.0	27																		

Warning Fires
across the Dow
Hints of Tougher Times

Currency and Asian Woes Fail to Dull Profits in Europe

Major European manufacturers shrugged off the effects of foreign-exchange swings and Asian financial turmoil to report better-than-expected earnings gains Thursday.

Imperial Chemical Industries PLC said first-quarter net income more than doubled after Britain's biggest chemical company sold from new companies it bought.

ICI said first-quarter net income rose to \$24 million (\$140.5 million) from \$34 million a year earlier. Revenue dropped 6 percent, to \$2.2 billion.

ICI in the last year has undertaken a major shift away from cyclical commodity chemicals and toward higher value-added specialty chemicals to seek less volatile earnings.

"Moving to the lighter end with differentiated products sets you up well when the world starts to get a bit hostile," said Alan Spall, the company's finance director.

ABB Asca Brown Boveri Ltd., the Swiss-Swedish engineering concern, said first-quarter net profit rose 9 percent, to \$258 million, despite a 7 percent fall in sales, to \$6.51 billion.

New orders were down 1 percent

at \$9.01 billion, but ABB said orders in local currencies and after discounts were up 10 percent. They rose 16 percent from the fourth quarter of 1997.

"Growth in certain emerging markets, especially in the Middle East and Latin America, more than compensated for lower demand in Asia," ABB said.

Akzo Nobel NV, fresh from a bid for the British rival Courtauld PLC, said first-quarter net profit rose 21 percent, to 410 million guilders (\$203 million), lifted by higher sales volumes and a better performance at all divisions of the diversified chemical company.

GAN said the profit would have been 647 million francs before a charge following the sale of two final property and property financing units. Bids for GAN are due by May 14, with the buyer to be named by June 19.

Asia Plane Sales to Keep Climbing

LONDON — Asia will become the world's biggest aviation market in 20 years even though the region's economic slowdown will temporarily stall growth, Airbus Industrie said in its annual world forecast, which was made public Thursday.

Airlines will spend \$1.2 trillion — or \$60 billion a year — to buy 13,600 new planes by 2017, Airbus said, sticking close to previous predictions.

The European aircraft consortium said it forecast demand for 3,100 used planes as well.

Airbus trimmed its forecast for aviation traffic growth to 5 percent annually from 5.2 percent, indicating that it regards the Asian slump as cyclical.

The Asian market, which now accounts for 25 percent of the world's fleet of planes, will hold 33 percent by 2017, making it the world's major market, the company said.

One striking change in this year's report is Airbus's estimate of demand for Airbus with more than 400 seats. It now predicts a need for 1,330 planes of more than 400 seats — an 8 percent drop from its 1997 prediction of 1,440 large jetliners in the next 20 years.

Airbus recently said it would delay the predicted entry into service of its planned 600-seater, dubbed the A3XX, until late 2004, instead of 2003.

The North American market, which owns 38 percent of the world's fleet, is expected to see that shrink to 29 percent by 2017, Airbus said.

It predicted that the Latin American market would see a 4.9 percent annual growth over 20 years; the Middle East and Africa, 4.5 percent growth; Western Europe, 5.3 percent growth; Eastern Europe, 5 percent growth; and the United States and Canada, 3.8 percent growth. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

UBS-SBC Accord Faces Additional Charges

ZURICH — Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp., which propose to merge to form UBS AG, Europe's biggest bank, are "likely" to take additional charges to cover loan losses in Southeast Asia, UBS said Thursday.

Mathis Caballavetta, chief executive of UBS, also said he expected the Swiss Competition Commission to rule on the merger by May 18.

Last year, UBS and SBC took unspecified charges to cover losses caused by the financial turmoil in Asia. Even so, the banks posted combined net income of 1.3 billion Swiss francs (\$874.1 million) in the first quarter of 1998.

Mr. Caballavetta told shareholders at UBS's annual general meeting, that "the merger that lies ahead could also involve a number of uncertainties and imponderables."

Lower Costs Help AngloGold Post Rise in 1st-Quarter Net

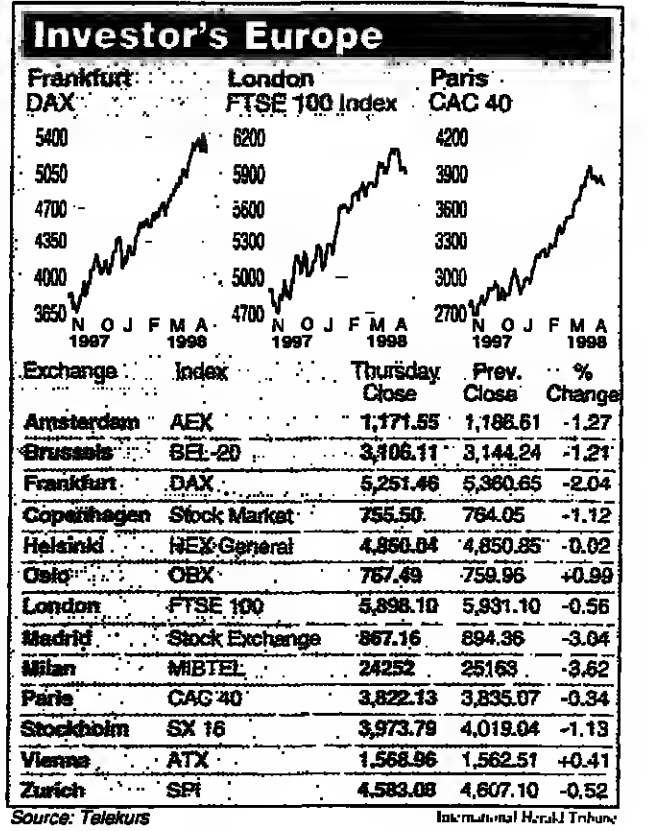
JOHANNESBURG — AngloGold Ltd., the world's biggest gold producer, shrugged off lower gold prices Thursday as it reported a slight rise in first-quarter profit, aided by stiff cost controls.

AngloGold, which groups five gold mines formerly belonging to Anglo American Corp. of South Africa, had a net profit of 265 million (\$52.5 million) in the first three months of 1998, up 2 percent from the previous quarter. Profit on its gold operations rose 5 percent, to \$28.4 million, despite a 2 percent drop in the gold price.

Negative sentiment toward gold has eased since January, when the price of the precious metal fell to a 12-year low of \$276 an ounce. Gold was quoted at \$312.85 an ounce on Thursday in London, up 20 cents.

AngloGold's gold output fell 13 percent in the quarter, to 50,361 kilograms (1.17 million ounces), as the company sought to limit production amid weak market prices. Its cash production costs dropped 7 percent in the quarter, to \$250 an ounce, a target set by Anglo executives last year.

The company has five major South African mining units — Vaal Reef, Free State Consolidated Gold Mines, Western Deep Levels Ltd.,



Very briefly:

- Kirch Group said it would be forced to end DFL if European Union antitrust officials blocked the pay-television service's planned merger with its biggest competitor, Premiere, a pay-TV service owned by Bertelsmann AG.
- Olivetti SpA doubled its five-year Eurobond issue to 600 million European currency units (\$661 million) after receiving investor demand for more than 800 million Euros' worth. The issue will be denominated in euros after the European single currency is introduced Jan. 1.
- The United States would be eager to pursue a trade-liberalization accord, the New Transatlantic Marketplace, with the European Union if the United States overcame France's resistance to the plan, said David Aaron, undersecretary of commerce for international trade.
- France may appeal to the European Court if the European Commission declines to approve state aid for Credit Lyonnais, Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said.
- Credit Foncier de France SA, a real-estate lender being sold by the government, attracted bids from four candidates, including a surprise joint offer from the Bass family of Texas and General Motors Acceptance Corp.
- General Motors Corp.'s British unit, Vauxhall Motors, received backing from its factory-floor workers for a tough three-year pay contract linked to foreign-exchange markets.
- British retail sales rose 0.3 percent in March after a 1.2 percent decline in February.
- Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, the pharmaceuticals division of Rhone-Poulenc SA, will 423 jobs at its headquarters in the United States and France to increase profitability.
- Lazard Freres & Co. will form an investment-banking venture in Italy with Vitale Borghesi & Co. that will be in direct competition with Mediobanca SpA, one of Lazard's historic allies.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, April 23					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.				
Prices in local currencies.					Prices in U.S. dollars.					Prices in U.S. dollars.					Prices in U.S. dollars.					Prices in U.S. dollars.				
Telukris					Telukris					Telukris					Telukris					Telukris				
High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.					High Low Close Prev.				
Amsterdam					Amsterdam					Amsterdam					Amsterdam					Amsterdam				
ABN-AMRO	53.30	51.90	52.20	52.30	ABN-AMRO	53.30	51.90	52.20	52.30	ABN-AMRO	53.30	51.90	52.20	52.30	ABN-AMRO	53.30	51.90	52.20	52.30	ABN-AMRO	53.30	51.90	52.20	52.30
Alcatel	287.70	276.20	282.80	282.80	Alcatel	287.70	276.20	282.80	282.80	Alcatel	287.70	276.20	282.80	282.80	Alcatel	287.70	276.20	282.80	282.80	Alcatel	287.70	276.20	282.80	282.80
Alkerm	41.40	41.10	40.90	40.90	Alkerm	41.40	41.10	40.90	40.90	Alkerm	41.40	41.10	40.90	40.90	Alkerm	41.40	41.10	40.90	40.90	Alkerm	41.40	41.10	40.90	40.90
ASL	190.10	190.10	190.10	190.10	ASL	190.10	190.10	190.10	190.10	ASL	190.10	190.10	190.10	190.10	ASL	190.10	190.10	190.10	190.10	ASL	190.10	190.10	190.10	190.10
ASL Ver.	182.90	182.90	182.90	182.90	ASL Ver.	182.90	182.90	182.90	182.90	ASL Ver.	182.90	182.90	182.90	182.90	ASL Ver.	182.90	182.90	182.90	182.90	ASL Ver.	182.90	182.90	182.90	182.90
Boon Co.	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	Boon Co.	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	Boon Co.	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	Boon Co.	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	Boon Co.	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
CSM	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10
CSM Ver.	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM Ver.	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM Ver.	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM Ver.	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	CSM Ver.	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10
Dow	205.00	205.00	205.00	205.00	Dow	205.00	205.00	205.00	205.00	Dow	205.00	205.00	205.00	205.00	Dow	205.00	205.00	205.00	205.00	Dow	205.00	205.00	205.00	205.00
Eurochem	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20
Eurochem Ver.	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem Ver.	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem Ver.	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem Ver.	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20	Eurochem Ver.	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20
Heidelberg	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Heidelberg	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Heidelberg	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Heidelberg	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Heidelberg	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00
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Hoechst	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Hoechst	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Hoechst	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Hoechst	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Hoechst	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00
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Imperial	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Imperial	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Imperial	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Imperial	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Imperial	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00
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Novartis Ver.	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Novartis Ver.	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00	Novartis Ver.	211.00	211.00	211.00	211.00										

ASIA/PACIFIC

Stevedores Jubilant as Appeal by Firm Fails

MELBOURNE — Jubilant union dockworkers claimed victory Thursday after an Australian court ordered that 1,400 fired port workers should be rehired.

After a two-day hearing, the Melbourne Federal Court dismissed an appeal by Lang Corp.'s Patrick Stevedores unit against an earlier order that the company should reinstate workers it fired two weeks ago.

The three Federal Court judges immediately refused to grant Patrick a stay on the order and told the company that its planned appeal to a higher court was "not a particularly strong candidate."

The ruling was a stunning setback for the conservative government's campaign to crush the Maritime Union of Australia, which it maintains has a monopoly on waterfront jobs.

The firings had touched off a struggle for control of the nation's docks, with the union setting up pickets that blocked cargo and disrupted factory production and other commerce.

At East Swanson Dock here, workers raised their fists in victory when the court ruling was broadcast live on television and radio, applauding the decision.

"We've got law in this country and we've got justice in this country and today's ruling shows the two go together," Paddy Crumlin, a leading dockworkers union official, said at the west coast port of Fremantle.

After firing the 1,400 dockworkers April 7, Patrick used private security guards and attack dogs to move them off the docks. The company claimed the union was too inefficient.

The government of Prime Minister John Howard backed the company, saying its actions were essential to long-overdue waterfront reforms.

The Maritime Union set up pickets to blockade Patrick's terminals at major ports, principally in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane.

The union and its sympathizers largely succeeded in preventing trucks and trains from loading and unloading cargo containers handled by Patrick's new, nonunion replacement workers.

"We want to get our men back to work," said Jennie George, head of the Australian umbrella union body, the ACTU. "More than that, too, we want to get this nation moving."

(Reuters, AP)



A member of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions shouting slogans Thursday during a demonstration in front of Seoul's Myeongdong Cathedral to protest rising unemployment.

Indonesian Firm Provides a Ray of Hope

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — One of Indonesia's largest companies ventured back into the global market Thursday, with a successful \$500 million bond offering that its backers said was a step forward for a country in economic crisis.

Just how big a step, though, is the subject of lively debate among analysts and bankers here.

Goldman, Sachs & Co., which handled the offering, was quick to pronounce the bond a turning point in the struggle by the country to regain stability after its currency collapsed last autumn.

But fund managers at rival banks said Indonesia's

economy had not yet hit bottom. Let alone started to turn back up.

The skeptics agree that the issue by the company, Asia Pulp & Paper Ltd., was a big success. The first Indonesian company to enter the market since the Asian financial crisis devastated the country's economy. It raised twice its original goal of \$250 million because of brisk demand for its five-year convertible notes.

But some analysts said Asia Pulp & Paper had unique strengths and should not be seen as a bellwether for Indonesia.

"I'd hesitate to say whether this has broad implications for the economy as a whole," said Richard Margolis, regional strategist at Merrill Lynch & Co. in Hong Kong. "I think it's a bit premature, frankly."

PROFITS: Lower Forecasts Make Companies Look Good

Continued from Page 13

earned 12 cents a share, 71 percent more than expected; Potlatch Corp., a wood products company that earned 37 cents a share, about 54 percent more than expected; and Occidental Petroleum Corp., which earned 38 cents a share, or 52 percent more than expected.

In each instance, those companies beat expectations only because the numbers were revised downward so sharply in the first three months of the year. For Owens-Corning, analysts slashed expectations to 7 cents a share from 54 cents.

"You've got to put that into context," said Chuck Hill, director of research at First Call. "Estimates have come down substantially more than they normally do."

Apple Computer Inc. is one of the great exceptions to the pattern. Its 38-cents-per-share profit exceeded the early April expectation of 17 cents a share. That forecast had actually increased, from just 2 cents a share in January. Analysts attribute the earlier expectations to Apple's poor performance in recent years.

"That's off a historically dismal base," said Mark Specker, vice president of SoundView Financial Group in San Francisco. "It's a reversal of a long-term decline, although I don't think you could say a big reversal."

Several of the biggest losers are technology companies. For instance, 3Com Corp.'s earnings of 2 cents a share were 86 percent below analysts' projections. Bay Networks Inc. earned 4 cents a share, or 67

percent of what was expected. Adobe Systems Inc., the computer software developer, reported earning 33 cents a share, or 25 percent below expectations.

Other companies met expectations, but earned less than in the first quarter of 1997. Coca-Cola Co., for instance, announced that it had earned 34 cents a share, 10 percent below what analysts had said it would. But profits were 13 percent below those of the first quarter of last year. Coke executives attributed some of the decline to currency problems following the crisis in Asia.

Advanced Micro Devices Inc., which makes computer chips, had the biggest fall, posting a loss equivalent to 39 cents a share in the first quarter against a profit of 9 cents a share in 1997.

Cost-Cutting To Reduce Mazda's Loss

TOKYO — Mazda Motor Corp. narrowed its loss estimate Thursday for the year that ended March 31, citing cost-cutting and smaller losses at its U.S. subsidiary.

Mazda, Japan's fifth-largest automaker, said it would report a group net loss for the year of 7 billion yen (\$53.2 million), compared with a forecast in November of 10 billion yen. The company said it had cut costs by 45 billion yen during the year and benefited from the yen's weakness by posting a gain of 15 billion yen on currency transactions.

Mazda, which is 33.4 percent owned by Ford Motor Co., is trying to return to profit after four years of losses on a group basis. It will report a parent-company operating profit of 31.2 billion yen for the year, its first operating profit in four years.

"The improvement in our operating profit highlights the structural improvements in our company," said Gary Hexter, senior managing director in charge of corporate planning and cost planning. He said the company expected to have a group net profit in the current financial year, ending March 31, 1999.

Mazda narrowed losses at its factory in Flat Rock, Michigan, a 50-50 joint venture with Ford. Its market share in Japan rose for the first time in seven years, to 5.1 percent from 4.8 percent, mainly because of strong sales of its Demio, a compact wagon and minivan combination.

But some analysts said the automaker would continue to have difficulty because it relied too heavily on the Demio to prop up sales.

Hong Kong Takes Pride in Resilience

Review

HONG KONG — The government said Thursday that the Hong Kong dollar's link to the U.S. dollar must be maintained, and it recommended measures to fine-tune the territory's financial and stock-market systems.

Unveiling a 97-page review that the government commissioned after a stock-market slump last October, Financial Secretary Donald Tsang said the territory had weathered the regional economic storm far better than other Asian countries. "If I grade myself among all my colleagues in Asia, we are clearly A-plus," Mr. Tsang said.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
13000	2000	17000
12000	1800	16000
11000	1600	15000
10000	1400	14000
9000	1200	13000
8000	1000	12000
1997	1997	1997
1998	1998	1998
1999	1999	1999
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close
Hong Kong Hang Seng	10,918.94	10,977.47
Singapore Straits Times	1,495.86	1,475.52
Sydney All Ordinaries	2,877.80	2,856.80
Tokyo Nikkei 225	15,781.68	15,781.54
Kuala Lumpur Composite	628.24	619.67
Bangkok SET	427.41	436.73
Seoul Composite Index	416.54	431.81
Taipei Stock Market Index	8,613.96	8,636.51
Manila PSE	2,164.33	2,154.28
Jakarta Composite Index	491.86	500.64
Wellington NZSE-40	2,314.45	2,319.96
Bombay Sensitive Index	4,092.33	4,179.44
		-0.08

Source: Reuters International Market Times

Very briefly:

• Singapore awarded a license to provide basic telephone service to StarHub, a consortium of British Telecommunications PLC, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., ST Telecommunications Pte. and Singapore Power Ltd. StarHub, which will start its service in 2000, will compete with the former monopoly, Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.

• Japan's economy is "bottoming out," said Eisuke Sakakibara, the deputy finance minister for international affairs, who is known in the markets as "Mr. Yen." Speaking at a private symposium, Mr. Sakakibara said financial markets in both Japan and the United States were at a turning point, hinting that U.S. stocks were nearing the end of their long bull run.

• Tokyo Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Japan's biggest casualty insurer, is joining with the Boston-based money manager United Asset Management Corp. to develop mutual funds for sale in Japan.

• News Corp., the media conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch, is slashing the price of its national daily, The Australian, by more than half in Melbourne to try to take business away from The Age, owned by John Fairfax Holdings Ltd. Fairfax shares fell 5 percent, to 2.82 Australian dollars (\$1.84).

(Reuters, AP)

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NET: Hunt for Wealth

Continued from Page 13

already are at a high, trading on average at 23 times the companies' estimated 1998 earnings.

The analysts said the fundamental physics of the market would almost certainly take effect in the not-too-distant future. What goes up too fast can easily come down with a thud.

Some of this week's hot stocks are so obscure that they go not even show up in the databases of companies such as First Call Corp., which track corporate earnings. That means there may be no Wall Street analysts keeping track of their performance, which in turn means they are all the more risky for investors who do not do their homework.

Consider K-Tel International Inc. It is likely to be a well-known name to the average mass-market consumer, as a pop-music compilation company that advertises on late-night television.

K-Tel made a simple announcement two weeks ago that it would begin to sell its compact disks on a corporate Web site. On Monday, shares of K-Tel International jumped 125 percent to \$41.625 on 14 million shares traded — a pretty big day for a company that had often traded fewer than 2,000 shares a day, for about \$7 each. It was trading late Thursday at \$37.875, down \$6.75 on the day.

On Tuesday, shares of a research company called Market Guide Inc. rose nearly 190 percent, to \$23, after the company said it would provide financial information for America Online's investment site. Market Guide's stock was at \$12.25 late Thursday, down \$7.2656.

Beyond the giddiness, some market analysts are scared. Internet stocks are "concept stocks," which means investors are betting that the Internet will one day become something it generally is not today — profitable.

"We're going to bet on that intangible value that will be realized in the future," said Mark Specker, vice president of research at SoundView Financial Group, describing these investors' reasoning.

REPUBLIC NEW YORK CORPORATION SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A.

Consolidated Statements of Condition and Summaries of Results

These statements and summaries represent the consolidated accounts of Republic New York Corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries and of Safra Republic Holdings S.A. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. Republic New York Corporation owns 49% of Safra Republic Holdings S.A., which is accounted for by the equity method.

	REPUBLIC NEW YORK CORPORATION		SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDINGS S.A.	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
<i>(in thousands of U.S. dollars except per share data)</i>				
Assets				
Cash and due from banks	\$ 901,783	\$ 710,183	\$ 73,815	\$ 80,760
Interest-bearing deposits with banks	4,756,804	5,909,195	7,476,969	6,041,717
Precious metals	1,241,956	1,231,319	—	—
Investment securities	25,513,818	21,175,513	9,485,637	8,665,381
Trading account assets	4,510,955	4,807,788	248,941	202,211
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under resale agreements	2,169,291	2,109,109	—	—
Loans, net of unearned income	12,359,741	11,721,936	2,288,896	1,687,050
Allowance for possible credit losses	(326,481)	(350,358)	(134,351)	(131,071)
Other assets	4,510,488	4,984,166	916,393	677,361
Total assets	\$ 55,638,355	\$ 52,398,851	\$ 20,356,300	\$ 17,223,409
Liabilities				
Total deposits	\$ 33,389,534	\$ 31,725,579	\$ 15,401,065	\$ 13,337,947
Trading account liabilities	5,320,864	4,402,085	225,659	148,326
Short-term borrowings	5,613,834	5,446,841	1,457,104	1,501,304
Other liabilities	3,061,708	3,169,016	522,927	417,722
Long-term debt	1,814,435	1,498,710	738,979	175,000
Subordinated long-term debt and perpetual capital notes	2,650,000	2,400,000	250,000	—
Mandatorily redeemable preferred securities	350,000	350,000	—	—
Shareholders' Equity				
Cumulative preferred stock	500,000	555,800	—	—
Common stock and surplus, net of treasury shares	693,306	777,473	886,094	891,091
Retained earnings	2,227,012	1,918,880	790,782	649,705
Net unrealized appreciation on securities available for sale, net of taxes	17,662	54,467	83,690	102,314
Total shareholders' equity	3,437,980	3,306,620	1,760,566	1,643,110
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 55,638,355	\$ 52,398,851	\$ 20,356,300	\$ 17,223,409
Book value per share	\$ 54.05	\$ 50.01	\$ 49.92	\$ 46.57
Client portfolio assets held in custody	\$ 16,281,275	\$ 11,064,678	\$ 16,281,275	\$ 11,064,678
Net income, for the year	\$ 449,108	\$ 418,840	\$ 255,055	\$ 189,830
Net income per common share - diluted	\$ 7.88	\$ 7.07	\$ 7.17	\$ 5.35
Average common shares outstanding - diluted	53,731	54,594	35,558	35,502

Risk-Based Capital Ratios

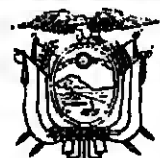
As of December 31, 1997, Republic New York Corporation's risk-based core capital ratio was 13.15% (estimated) and total qualifying capital ratio was 21.90% (estimated). The ratios include the assets, risk-weighted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Reserve Board specifically applied to Republic New York Corporation on a fully consolidated basis, and capital of Safra Republic Holdings S.A. Total consolidated assets under these requirements exceeded US\$ 70 billion and total consolidated capital, including minority interest and subordinated debt, exceeded US\$ 7 billion.

Republic New York Corporation
Fifth Avenue at 40th Street
New York, New York 10018

Banking Locations

New York • Geneva • London • Beijing • Beirut • Beverly Hills • Buenos Aires • Cayman Islands • Copenhagen • Encino • Gibraltar • Guernsey • Hong Kong • Jakarta • Los Angeles • Lugano • Luxembourg • Manila • Mexico City • Miami • Milan • Monte Carlo • Montevideo • Montreal • Moscow • Nassau • Paris • Punta del Este • Rio de Janeiro • Santiago • Sao Paulo • Singapore • Sydney • Taipei • Tokyo • Toronto • Zurich

Safra Republic Holdings S.A.
32, boulevard Royal
L-2449 Luxembourg



REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

FIRST SPECIAL BIDDING ROUND FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL AND ADDITIONAL EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBONS IN MARGINAL FIELDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian National Oil Company, PETROECUADOR, duly authorized by the Special Bidding Committee, (CEL), invites all national and foreign companies, already pre-qualified, to participate in the following Special Bidding Process:

Amazon Region: Special Tenders number: 001-UCCM-98 for the BERMEJO field; 002-UCCM-98 for the CHANANGUE field; 003-UCCM-98 for the CHARAPA field; 004-UCCM-98 for the OCAÑO-PEÑA BLANCA field; 005-UCCM-98 for the PACAY field; 006-UCCM-98 for the PALANDA-YUCA SUR field; 007-UCCM-98 for the PINDO field; 008-UCCM-98 for the PUMA field; 009-UCCM-98 for the SINGUE field; and 010-UCCM-98 for the TIGUINO field; for the Production of Crude Oil and Additional Exploration of Hydrocarbons.

The Technical and Economical Information for each field, as well as the Legal Documentation, Contracting Bases, Contract Pro-forma, Instructions, and all other bidding documents are available for purchasing as from 09H00 of Thursday, April 16, 1998, from PETROECUADOR, Petroleum Contracting Unit, Av. Amazonas No. 4000, Edificio Vivanco, sixth floor, in the city of Quito, Ecuador, phone number (593-2) 266536 / 266537 / 266538 / 266539, fax number (593-2) 262375, P.O. Box 5007 / 5008. Prior to the purchase of the informational packages, interested companies should deposit in the Treasury of PETROECUADOR, Av. 6 de Diciembre y Alapallana, Edificio Alapallana, mezzanine, a non refundable fee, by certified check issued by a bank established in Ecuador, for the following amounts:

For Participation Rights, individual for each field, the following amounts according to the fields of interest of the company or group of companies:

• Bermejo	US\$ 30,000	• Palanda-Yuca Sur	US\$ 20,000
• Chanangue	US\$ 5,000	• Pindo	US\$ 10,000
• Charapa	US\$ 10,000	• Puma	US\$ 10,000
• Ocaño-Peña Blanca	US\$ 5,000	• Singue	US\$ 10,000
• Pacay	US\$ 5,000	• Tiguito	US\$ 20,000

Purchase of information for all ten fields: US\$ 100,000

If in the company's interest, and additional fee of US\$ 50,000 for the Mathematical Simulation Studies for one or all of the following fields: Bermejo, Charapa, Puma, Singue, Tiguito and Yuca Sur.

Offers will be received at the Secretariat of the Special Bidding Committee (CEL), Av. 6 de Diciembre y Alapallana, Edificio Alapallana, ninth floor, in the city of Quito, Ecuador, until 16H00 of Friday, May 29, 1998. All offers shall comply with the requirements included in the forms and instructions, in the document "General Instructions for Qualification and Submission of Offers for the Tender for the Production of Crude Oil and Additional Exploration of Hydrocarbons in Marginal Fields", and all other instructions conforming the informational packages.

Alvaro Bermeo C.
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES
PRESIDENT OF THE CEL

Luis A. Román L.
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF PETROECUADOR
SECRETARY OF THE CEL

Thursday's 4 P.M.

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Order	Item	Quantity	Unit	Price	Total
1	1000	1	kg	10.00	10.00
2	2000	2	kg	20.00	40.00
3	3000	3	kg	30.00	90.00
4	4000	4	kg	40.00	160.00
5	5000	5	kg	50.00	250.00
6	6000	6	kg	60.00	360.00
7	7000	7	kg	70.00	490.00
8	8000	8	kg	80.00	640.00
9	9000	9	kg	90.00	810.00
10	10000	10	kg	100.00	1000.00
11	11000	11	kg	110.00	1210.00
12	12000	12	kg	120.00	1440.00
13	13000	13	kg	130.00	1690.00
14	14000	14	kg	140.00	1960.00
15	15000	15	kg	150.00	2250.00
16	16000	16	kg	160.00	2560.00
17	17000	17	kg	170.00	2890.00
18	18000	18	kg	180.00	3240.00
19	19000	19	kg	190.00	3610.00
20	20000	20	kg	200.00	4000.00
21	21000	21	kg	210.00	4410.00
22	22000	22	kg	220.00	4840.00
23	23000	23	kg	230.00	5290.00
24	24000	24	kg	240.00	5760.00
25	25000	25	kg	250.00	6250.00
26	26000	26	kg	260.00	6760.00
27	27000	27	kg	270.00	7290.00
28	28000	28	kg	280.00	7840.00
29	29000	29	kg	290.00	8410.00
30	30000	30	kg	300.00	9000.00
31	31000	31	kg	310.00	9610.00
32	32000	32	kg	320.00	10240.00
33	33000	33	kg	330.00	10890.00
34	34000	34	kg	340.00	11560.00
35	35000	35	kg	350.00	12250.00
36	36000	36	kg	360.00	12960.00
37	37000	37	kg	370.00	13690.00
38	38000	38	kg	380.00	14440.00
39	39000	39	kg	390.00	15210.00
40	40000	40	kg	400.00	16000.00
41	41000	41	kg	410.00	16810.00
42	42000	42	kg	420.00	17640.00
43	43000	43	kg	430.00	18490.00
44	44000	44	kg	440.00	19360.00
45	45000	45	kg	450.00	20250.00
46	46000	46	kg	460.00	21160.00
47	47000	47	kg	470.00	22090.00
48	48000	48	kg	480.00	23040.00
49	49000	49	kg	490.00	24010.00
50	50000	50	kg	500.00	25000.00
51	51000	51	kg	510.00	26010.00
52	52000	52	kg	520.00	27040.00
53	53000	53	kg	530.00	28090.00
54	54000	54	kg	540.00	29160.00
55	55000	55	kg	550.00	30250.00
56	56000	56	kg	560.00	31360.00
57	57000	57	kg	570.00	32490.00
58	58000	58	kg	580.00	33640.00
59	59000	59	kg	590.00	34810.00
60	60000	60	kg	600.00	36000.00
61	61000	61	kg	610.00	37210.00
62	62000	62	kg	620.00	38440.00
63	63000	63	kg	630.00	39690.00
64	64000	64	kg	640.00	40960.00
65	65000	65	kg	650.00	42250.00
66	66000	66	kg	660.00	43560.00
67	67000	67	kg	670.00	44890.00
68	68000	68	kg	680.00	46240.00
69	69000	69	kg	690.00	47610.00
70	70000	70	kg	700.00	49000.00
71	71000	71	kg	710.00	50410.00
72	72000	72	kg	720.00	51840.00
73	73000	73	kg	730.00	53290.00
74	74000	74	kg	740.00	54760.00
75	75000	75	kg	750.00	56250.00
76	76000	76	kg	760.00	57760.00
77	77000	77	kg	770.00	59290.00
78	78000	78	kg	780.00	60840.00
79	79000	79	kg	790.00	62410.00
80	80000	80	kg	800.00	64000.00
81	81000	81	kg	810.00	65610.00
82	82000	82	kg	820.00	67240.00
83	83000	83	kg	830.00	68890.00
84	84000	84	kg	840.00	70560.00
85	85000	85	kg	850.00	72250.00
86	86000	86	kg	860.00	73960.00
87	87000	87	kg	870.00	75690.00
88	88000	88	kg	880.00	77440.00
89	89000	89	kg	890.00	79210.00
90	90000	90	kg	900.00	81000.00
91	91000	91	kg	910.00	82810.00
92	92000	92	kg	920.00	84640.00
93	93000	93	kg	930.00	86490.00
94	94000	94	kg	940.00	88360.00
95	95000	95	kg	950.00	90250.00
96	96000	96	kg	960.00	92160.00
97	97000	97	kg	970.00	94090.00
98	98000	98	kg	980.00	96040.00
99	99000	99	kg	990.00	98010.00
100	100000	100	kg	1000.00	100000.00

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Stock	Div Yld	PE	High	Low	Close	Change
374	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
375	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
376	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
377	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
378	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
379	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
380	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
381	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
382	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
383	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
384	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
385	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
386	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
387	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
388	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
389	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
390	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
391	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
392	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
393	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
394	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
395	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
396	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
397	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
398	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
399	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
400	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
401	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
402	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
403	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
404	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
405	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
406	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
407	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
408	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
409	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
410	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
411	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
412	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
413	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
414	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
415	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
416	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
417	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
418	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
419	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
420	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
421	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
422	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
423	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
424	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
425	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
426	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
427	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
428	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
429	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
430	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
431	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
432	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
433	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
434	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
435	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
436	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4
437	2.74	12	100	95	95 1/4	+1/4

[illegible]

صدينا من الامم

Austrian Dollars; AS - Austrian Schillings;
 Canadian Dollars; CS - Canadian Dollars;
 Danish Kroner; DS - Danish Kroner; DE -
 Deutsch Mark; ECU - European Currency Unit;
 FF - French FF; F - Finnish Mark; Ft. - Dutch
 Gld. - Indonesian Rupiah; Lt. - Italian lire;
 Luxembourg Francs - French francs; MYR -
 Malaysian Ringgit; P - Pounds; S\$ -
 Singapore Dollars; S - Swiss Francs; Sak.
 - Thai Kroner; THB - Thai Baht; Y - Yen.

+ - Other Prices; N.A. - Not Available;
 Not Communicated; - New; S -
 SSES - Stock Split; - Ex-Dividend; -
 % - Other Price Ind. %; profit, earnings;
 exchange; - Amsterdamsche exchange; S -
 settled; earlier - stock registered with
 authority; Y - listed in *Y* of 1981; offered -
 E: estimated price; p: price estimated 2
 years in publication; S: 1984 price.

marginal symbols indicate frequency of
 issues supplied: (d) - daily; (f) - weekly; (b)
 - bi-monthly; (q) - quarterly; (y) - regularly; (n) -

WORLD ROUNDUP

**EU Again Warns
French Over Tickets**

SOCCER The European Commission repeated Thursday that it planned to try to levy a fine against the French World Cup organizers over the allocation of tickets.

Stefan Rating, a spokesman for the EU executive, said that Karel Van Miert, the European competition commissioner, would "certainly propose a fine" to follow commissioners. Rating said the fine might be up to 10 percent of the tournament's income — including broadcasting and other revenue.

For the second day, ticket hotlines were deluged by callers hoping to buy one of the 10,000 seats on general sale. World Cup organizers said Thursday that on the first two days the lines were open they had sold 35,000 of the tickets.

The telephone sale was prompted by earlier moves by Van Miert, who had complained over the way the initial 2.5 million tickets had been distributed.

Hotel prices in cities with Cup matches will rise by an average 41 percent during the tournament, a French consumer magazine, *Que Choisir*, reported Thursday. The biggest rise — 58 percent — will be near the Stade de France, north of Paris, and in Montpellier.

**Coach Kitch Christie Dies,
Led South Africa to Cup**

RUGBY UNION Kitch Christie, who coached South Africa to victory in the World Cup in 1995, died of cancer Tuesday in Pretoria.

Christie first contracted cancer before he became national coach. He was in charge when South Africa beat New Zealand, 15-12, in the World Cup final in Johannesburg. The Springboks won all 14 tests they played under him. (AP)

Bears Deal Running Back

FOOTBALL The Chicago Bears traded Rashawn Salaam, the 1994 Heisman Trophy winner, to the Miami Dolphins for a conditional draft choice next year. Last year, injuries limited Salaam to 31 carries for 131 yards. (AP)

Bayern Hires Hitzfeld

SOCCER Ottmar Hitzfeld has signed a two-year contract to replace Giovanni Trapattoni as coach of Bayern Munich, the German club said Thursday. Hitzfeld led Borussia Dortmund to the European Cup last year. (Reuters)

Manning Wins Award

BASKETBALL On the same day he was to undergo the third reconstructive knee surgery of his career, Danny Manning of the Phoenix Suns won the National Basketball Association Sixth Man Award on Thursday.

Manning tore a ligament in his right knee April 7. By then, though, he had done enough to capture the award, which honors the best bench player in the league. Manning played as a reserve in 59 of his 70 games and averaged 13.5 points. (AP)

**Sampras's Game:
Not Up to No. 1 Par**

He Loses to Santoro in Monte Carlo's 3d Round

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

MONTÉ CARLO — The days of the current ranking system in men's tennis are numbered, and after what happened to Pete Sampras on Thursday afternoon when he lost, 6-1, 6-1, to Fabrice Santoro in the Monte Carlo Open, such change is clearly overdue.

Sampras has a fine chance of reclaiming the No. 1 ranking from the injured Marcelo Rios at the end of this tournament, but anyone who had to sit through his occasionally agonizing amalgam of baseline errors, missed serves and missed opportunities knows that Sampras is not the world's best player right now.

Less than 24 hours after he lifted his game and spirits on clay by beating Andre Agassi in an uneven match bristling with nervous energy, Sampras plummeted back to earth in the third round.

"I'm pretty stunned," Sampras said. "I really dug myself a big hole."

Santoro, the 25th-ranked Frenchman with the quick feet and agile mind, was only too delighted to pile on the dirt. Santoro is one of the few players to hold a career advantage over Sampras. He leads their series 3-2, and all three of his victories have come on clay, although Sampras did handle him with surprising ease in the first round of last year's French Open.

"I learned some lessons from that defeat," said Santoro, who moved in closer to the baseline and attacked Sampras's weaker backhand wing with some success.

But this was not simply a case of Sampras struggling against a oemesis on his least favorite surface. This was his most lopsided loss since he was beaten, 6-1, 6-0, by Jonas Svensson in 1990 in Munich. The lack of rhythm from the baseline and poor first-serve percentage (36) that were his undoing against Santoro have been nagging at him throughout this season.

"He's going through a difficult period," Santoro said. "He beat Andre Agassi; he is capable of beating any player on earth, but I think he has lost some of the confidence that he's had for quite a few years."

For the moment, the player brimming with confidence is Rios, the defending champion in Monte Carlo who was unable to defend his title because of strained tendons in his left elbow.

"I've had five plane tickets in the last three weeks, and I've had to turn them all back in," said Larry Stefanki, Rios's coach, by telephone from California. "My travel agent is going nuts."

Rios already withdrew from the events in Barcelona and Monte Carlo because of the elbow pain that has bothered him since January. Stefanki said he also had withdrawn from the clay court event in Munich next week and was far from certain to play at the Super 9 event in Hamburg the following week.

Stefanki said Rios was undergoing therapy four hours a day in Bradenton, Florida and could not serve without pain.

"He's 22, and he can't take chances with his body," Stefanki said. "He wants to get in five or six more years at the top level of the game. If he goes out with the heavy balls on tour right now, it's not going to help his elbow in the

least. I really feel for him because this happens right after he becomes No. 1.

"He wanted to play in Monte Carlo anyway, and I told him, 'You've already proved you can be No. 1. Now, the next challenge is to sustain it. If you go out and play for two weeks and your elbow turns into a balloon and you have to miss the French Open, that's not proving anything.'"

Either Sampras or Petr Korda will replace Rios at No. 1 on Monday.

The ranking system is based on players' performances over the last 52 weeks and only counts their best 14 results. In theory, this is fair. In practice, this is difficult for all but the most ardent fan to follow or comprehend. By 2000, the ATP expects to make the ranking into a yearly points race.

If Korda is to become the 15th No. 1 in history he must reach the final in Monte Carlo. He has squandered three opportunities to reach the top this season. On Thursday, after he took a 5-0 lead against Albert Costa of Spain, he lost the next seven games and the opening set. It appeared he would falter again. But this time Korda rallied to win, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Korda will face Richard Krajicek in the quarterfinals on Friday. Santoro will face Cedric Pioline.

Boris Becker, the semiretired German, continued his merry and thoroughly unexpected romp by overwhelming Mark Philippoussis, 6-1, 6-1.



Cedric Pioline of France preparing to serve against Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in Monte Carlo on Thursday. Pioline won the match, 7-6, 6-1.

**Dutch Yacht
Wins a Leg
By Dodging
Gulf Stream**

By Angus Phillips
Washington Post Service

BALTIMORE — And the last shall be first. Well, the next-to-last.

When the Whitbread "Round-the-World Race" fleet romped into the Patuxent River, past the slag heaps of Bethlehem Steel, on Wednesday, the unlikely ship led the way.

Brunel Smurty, a Dutch entry that was last or next-to-last in five of six previous legs and stood eighth overall in the nine-boat field, sped under Key Bridge first, under straining spinnaker, the nearest rival's sails barely etched on the horizon to the south.

"They put their money on a bet, and it paid off. I'm happy for them," said a rival skipper, Paul Cayard of EF Language, which finished 20 minutes later in third place, 30 seconds behind the second-place Swedish Match. EF holds a commanding 104-point lead in the race.

But Wednesday belonged to the Dutch.

"We know that we are not the fastest boat in the fleet," said Gerard Rogieve, Brunel's co-skipper, "so we took a course that was the most direct. It was a calculated risk, but it wasn't long before we knew it was actually working. It's always a bit scary to go off from the rest of the fleet, but we took the chance, and it paid."

Roy Heiner, the Brunel skipper, chose not to follow the north-flowing Gulf Stream and its four-to-five-knot favorable current after leaving Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Sunday. The rest of the fleet aimed for the stream and spent a day and night in misery, bucked by contrary winds and huge seas. Brunel enjoyed more favorable winds 80 miles (130 kilometers) to the east, sped to a 40-mile lead and hung on in Chesapeake Bay as the others tumbled up ever closer.

Baltimore was added to the Whitbread itinerary this year amid trepidation among sailors about the suitability of the Chesapeake Bay for ocean racers.

The Whitbread 60s, as the race boats are known, need 13 feet (4 meters) of water to float, and the bay is dotted with shoals shallower than that, not to mention abundant fish traps, crab pots and fickle winds and currents.

But the leaders cleared the Bay Bridge-Tunnel at Norfolk, Virginia, in the wee hours of the morning and negotiated the estuary's perils for the next half-day without incident. In fact, the Chesapeake provided a platform for a spectacular race for second between Swedish Match and EF Language, which never were more than a half-mile apart in the 128-mile run up the bay.

"Coming into Baltimore," said Erle Williams, the Swedish Match co-skipper, "it was full-on match-race tactics, matching each other jibe for jibe, tack for tack. Cayard was all over us. To hold him off was a great triumph, because he throws everything into it, and he's very good."

All nine boats finished within an hour and 40 minutes, with Cayard's stablemates in the women's boat EF Education bringing up the rear.

World Cup Pretenders Fail to Impress

The Associated Press

PARIS — After a night on which 23 of the 32 soccer World Cup finalists played warm-up matches, British bookmakers decided Thursday that the most impressive team was one that did not take the field, and they cut the odds on favorite Brazil's successfully defending the cup.

While Brazil prepared for a warm-up match against its bitter rival Argentina in Rio de Janeiro on April 29, many of its strongest rivals were in action. None was entirely convincing.

Host France continued its struggles in attack, and drew, 0-0, with Sweden — a 1994 semifinalist but a nonqualifier this time — in rainy Stockholm. Youri Djorkaeff came closest for France as Aime Jacquet, substituting husily, tried Christophe Dugarry, David Trezeguet and Nicolas Anelka in attack.

Italy beat Paraguay, 3-1, in Parma, but the victory only clouded the already confused question of who is going to play in attack for Italy in the World Cup.

Paulo Maldini, a defender, scored once. Francesco Moriero, making his first start for Italy, scored the other two in brilliant style. But Moriero is a winger. In Serie A he is a creator of goals for Ronaldo, his Inter Milan teammate, rather than a scorer, and although he is a dazzling attacking player he can be undisciplined.

"Moriero played a great game," said Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach who abandoned his conservative style by throwing three attackers at the visitors. "We were searching for someone able to get by a defender, and we have found a player who can do that and also score."

England beat Portugal, which has not qualified for the World Cup, in an ill-tempered match at Wembley. Alan Shearer scored twice and, with Portugal down to 10 men in the final minutes, England might have scored three or four more.

But the final score, 3-0, flattered England, which struggled for much of the match. The goalkeeping of David Seaman and some wasteful shooting by the Portuguese saved the host from embarrassment in the first half.

Argentina easily handled nonqualifier Ireland, 2-0, in Dublin but wasted several other scoring chances.

Neither Romania nor Belgium looked like a contender in their game at Brussels, though the visitors did well to hold on for a 1-1 draw after the expulsion of defender Antoo Dobos.

Scotland struggled to a 1-1 draw with Finland. Daroo Jackson scored in his first game for Scotland since he had brain surgery last August.

In Santiago, Chile played shorthanded most of the match but salvaged a 2-2 draw with Colombia with a late goal by star striker Marcelo Salas.

Germany bounced back from its disheartening late-goal loss to Brazil last month — which snapped a 22-game unbeaten run — by edging Nigeria, 1-0. Andreas Moeller's strike in the 57th minute decided the match.

Two of the dark horses for the World Cup played well. Yugoslavia fell behind to South Korea in Belgrade but took control in the second half to win, 3-1.

Croatia thrashed Poland, 4-1. Mario Stanic scored twice and Zvonimir Boban and Alen Boksic once each as Croatia scored all its goals in the first 47 minutes.

The United States beat Austria, 3-0, in Vienna. It was the first victory for the Americans since they beat Brazil, 1-0, on Feb. 10. Frankie Hejduk gave the visitors the lead after 54 minutes. Claudio Reyna, who had an impressive match, and Brian McBride scored the other U.S. goals in the final two minutes after Austria had made six substitutions.

WORLD SOCCER ROUNDUP

Geller Offers England Help
Uri Geller, who became famous by bending cutlery live on TV by rubbing it gently between his thumb and forefinger, says he's already assisting England, even if Glenn Hoddle, the coach, does not want him to. The Associated Press reported from London.

"Within the last couple of weeks, I went to Marseille and sneaked into the Velodrome Stadium and planted energy crystals in the pitch," Geller said of the site where England faces Tunisia on June 15. "I believe they will make the same difference to England as the crystals I used to help them play well at Wembley during Euro '96."

England reached the semifinals of that tournament.

"In February, I also had the World Cup trophy taken secretly to my house and I was asked to positively energize it on behalf of England, so that they will have a good tournament and maybe even win it," Geller said. "I even bent it a little bit."

In Formula One, a Driver Needs Slick Skills Outside the Car, Too

By Brad Spurgeon
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Formula One drivers do some of their most important work off the race-track. The best drivers steer their teams as well as they steer their cars.

The Grand Prix circuit moves to Europe this weekend with the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on Sunday. The McLaren cars have proved this season that they are the fastest in Formula One and yet the team is struggling to hold the initiative after being outflanked and out-thought by Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari in the Argentine Grand Prix two weeks ago.

Schumacher showed, once again, that a great racer drives not only his car but his team too.

"We thought for a long time that the top 10 or 15 drivers in the best cars were capable of winning a championship," said Bernard Dudot, a former technical director for Renault Sport, the engine supplier to the Williams team. "We now know that it is more difficult than that and that the driver's role is considerable. And not just in having talent — knowing how to drive — but knowing how to be a stimulating presence in his team."

For years, many teams, especially Williams, thought a great car was all that was needed, but it should have learned its lesson in 1994. It had the

fastest cars that year and won the constructors' title, but Schumacher won the drivers' title in a weaker Benetton.

In Buenos Aires two weeks ago, Schumacher and Ferrari made all the right decisions at the right moments. They made two pit stops — while McLaren made but one. This paid off when Schumacher made his second stop on lap 53 while he was 20 seconds ahead of Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren. Schumacher pulled in just before running into a pack of slower cars who would have held him up. He came back on to the course just ahead of Hakkinen, as the Finn was himself slowed by back markers.

No amount of technological innovation can replace the role of the driver's rapport with the team. Formula One teams have between 100 and 250 employees (except Ferrari, which has 450), and the driver is the tip of the pyramid.

"More than a hundred people make the car," said Alain Prost, the Prost Grand Prix team owner and a four-time drivers' champion. "And the driver has to be considered as part of that group. The driver doesn't just drive the car today."

An example of team-driver cohesion could be seen during a recent Prost testing day at the track at Magny-Cours, France. For more than an hour, Olivier Panis, a Prost driver, sat in the race car with his helmet off and the engine silent, while a

couple of mechanics pushed him in and out of the pits. This enabled 18 other mechanics to practice changing tires in a pit stop simulation. A good tire change takes about five seconds, and every extra second can lead to a place lost during a race. But all Panis did during this practice was press the brake and chat with the mechanics. Anyone could have taken his place.

Christine Marquillie, a Prost spokesperson, said: "It's really just part of solidifying team spirit."

The driver must have a talent for describing to mechanics and technicians how the car feels, and they must have confidence in his judgment. Confidence and mutual respect are also crucial in developing a race strategy — what kind of tires to use, how many pit stops to make and when to make them — and in allowing split-second changes to that strategy during, or just before, a race. Schumacher won last year's Monaco Grand Prix after his own last-minute decision to go with a wet-race setup when most of the other cars started with a dry-race setup.

When bad luck comes — a spinoff, mechanical failure or poor pit strategy — the driver must accept it with grace, and show his team that they, and he, can take the pressure.

Henri Pescarolo, a former Formula One driver who now teaches racing at a school in France, said that psychology plays a key role both on and off the track.

"Schumacher certainly has superior driving talent than many others," he said, "but also in his capacity to unify around himself a team, and to give it the desire to work for him. Being a catalyst in a team is a quality that not everyone has."

Last year, after Panis broke both legs in an accident at the Canadian Grand Prix in June, the Prost team was destabilized and their race results dropped. Before Panis had healed completely, Prost signed him in August for the next two seasons. So important was it for the team to know its future.

Similarly, Hakkinen suffered life-threatening head injuries in an accident during practice in 1995 at the Australian Grand Prix. But the team kept him, and he came back to take third place at the first race the following season. At the European Grand Prix in Jerez last year, the team, partly as a gesture of thanks, ordered the other McLaren driver, David Coulthard, to pull aside to give Hakkinen his first victory.

Hakkinen won the opening two races this season and finished second in Argentina, where Coulthard started from pole position. Coulthard led until he collided with Schumacher on lap six.

There is a danger in backing one driver over another, however. The second driver may be neglected and fail to garner enough points for the team to win the constructors' title, which is awarded for the most points totaled by both of a



David Coulthard, top, and Michael Schumacher talking in Imola on Thursday.

team's cars. According to Damon Hill, the former world champion and ex-Williams driver, maintaining good relations with one's teammate is not easy.

"It's like Tyson and Holyfield having to train in the same camp," he said.

★

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Wills Pull Out a 2-1 Victory

REBOARD

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SPORTS

Lowly Ottawa Upsets Devils to Start Playoffs

Senators Pull Out a 2-1 Victory in Overtime

New York Times Service
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — During the 82-game regular season in the National Hockey League, the New Jersey Devils won 48 games, and the Ottawa Senators won 34. The Devils finished first in the Eastern Conference, while the Senators finished eighth to salvage the last berth in the playoffs.

But when the more important competition began Wednesday night, Ottawa won, 2-1.

The Senators scored the winning goal at 5 minutes, 58 seconds of the first overtime when Bruce Gardner knocked a rebound into the net over the sprawled body of Martin Brodeur, the Devils' goalie.

Ottawa, which took a 1-0 lead in the four-of-seven-game first-round series, had dominated the overtime. It was a tense and low-scoring game between two teams with a cautious style in a low-scoring era.

Aleksei Yashin, Ottawa's best player, gave his team the lead late in the second period. The Devils tied it with 3:24 remaining in regulation on a goal by Doug Gilmour, their best attacker, whose short shot finished a forechecking foray that included a kick pass from behind the net by Denis Pederson and a stick pass across the slot by Steve Thomas.

The Senators almost won with 30 seconds remaining in regulation, but Brodeur, moving quickly to his left, stopped Shawn McEachern on a rebound of a blast from the blue line by Jason York.

The first period was scoreless. Ottawa had the best scoring chances, although shots on goal at the first intermission were even at eight each.

Ottawa scored the first goal of the game with the teams skating four to a side. After a thrust to the net, the puck seemed about to nestle under Brodeur, who had covered the goal post but was sprawled on the ice. Yashin fished the

puck back, carried it behind the goal line and flipped it high to the front. It bounced off the surprised Carpenter, past the startled Brodeur and over the goal line to make it 1-0 for the Senators at 18:48 of the second period.

In other games, The Associated Press reported:

Oilers 3, Avalanche 2 Edmonton trailed 2-0 in Denver in the third period but fought back to upset Colorado. Colorado, like New Jersey, had struggled late in the season. But the Avalanche seemed in control against Edmonton until Bill Guerin made it 2-1 on a power play with 8:58 left in the third period. Barely a minute later, Todd Marchant passed to Dean McAmmond, who beat Patrick Roy to tie the game.

After a scramble in front of Roy, Boris Mironov scored the winning goal from the right circle at 14:51. Peter Forsberg had both goals for the Avalanche.

Sabres 3, Flyers 2 In Philadelphia, Buffalo blew a two-goal lead but kept its nerve. Rod Brind'Amour and Chris Gratton both beat Buffalo goalie Dominik Hasek in a span of 19 seconds to tie the game in the third period. But Donald Audette got the winner after Flyers goalie Sean Burke flopped to stop a shot from the point. The rebound tricked to the side of the net, and Audette lifted the puck over the fallen goalie from a rough angle.

Petr Svoboda, a Philadelphia defenseman, suffered nerve damage after being accidentally kneed in the head in the second period by Dixon Ward. The Flyers also lost forward Mike Sillinger when he suffered a concussion after being blind-sided by Buffalo's Alexei Zhitnik.

Red Wings 6, Coyotes 3 In Detroit, the Red Wings began their Stanley Cup defense in rousing style with three goals in the first period against Phoenix. Joe Kocur, with no goals in 30 games, scored twice as the Wings drove goalie Nikolai Khabibulin from the game.



Bobby Dollas of the Oilers, right, checking Colorado's Adam Deadmarsh.

Nicklas Lidstrom, Kocur and Sergei Fedorov scored first-period goals. Darren McCarty, Kocur and Kirk Maltby scored in the second.

"Khabibulin has a history of playing this club good," Kocur said. "To get a couple of goals on him does me a world of good."

Capitals 3, Bruins 1 Washington used tenacious defense and goalie Olaf Kolzig's 27 saves to beat the inexperienced Boston Bruins. The Caps are unbeaten in their last 12 home games, but there were about 8,000 empty seats at the MCI Center in Washington. Brian Bellows, Sergei Gonchar and

Esa Tikkanen scored for Washington. **Stars 4, Sharks 1** In Dallas, the Stars, the best team in the regular season, lost their best scorer, Joe Nieuwendyk, with a sprained knee.

Nieuwendyk scored the Stars' first goal on a breakaway only 2:22 into the game as Dallas scored twice in the opening three minutes. But with 4:02 left in the period, Nieuwendyk was knocked out of the game by defenseman Bryan Marchment's check. Nieuwendyk was ridden hard into the corner by Marchment, crashed into the boards and fell, clutching his right knee. He was helped off the ice by teammates.

In Victory, Boston Saves Its Best for Last Again

The Associated Press
Midre Cummings hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning as Boston scored four runs for a victory, the seventh time this season the Red Sox have won in their final at-bat.

The Red Sox won, 8-5, in Detroit to gain their 11th victory in 12 games. Pedro Martinez, Boston's star pitcher, gave up four runs and six hits in 5 1/2 innings, raising his earned run average from 0.84 to 1.68. He had not allowed more than two runs in his previous four starts with Boston.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 1 New York scored nine runs off Roger Clemens to complete a three-game sweep in Toronto.

White Sox 14, Indians 7 In Cleveland, Chicago scored nine runs in a bizarre fifth inning full of grounders, choppers and rollers between first base and the pitcher's mound. In all, the Indians made five errors.

Frank Thomas homered in the first after Ray Durham reached on an error for the first of three times — tying a major league record.

Rangers 7, Devil Rays 2 Mark McLemore's three-run double helped keep Rick Helling (4-0) stay unbeaten and carried host Texas to its eighth victory in nine games.

Mariners 11, Royals 5 In Seattle, Rob Ducey went 4-for-5 and drove in four runs. Joey Cora went 4-for-4, and Dan Wilson hit a three-run homer for the Mariners.

Angels 7, Orioles 6 Darin Erstad's two-run homer capped a three-run eighth inning for Anaheim.

Twins 4, Athletics 2 Todd Walker's two-run double capped a three-run eighth as Minnesota broke a six-game losing streak by winning in Oakland.

In National League games:
 Pirates 5, Giants 2 Kevin Young, who

entered the game in a 5-for-32 skid, had three hits as the Pirates snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Young, dehydrated and dizzy for several days because of an eye and ear infection, had a solo homer and a run-scoring double as Pittsburgh beat visiting San Francisco.

Padres 3, Cubs 2 Ken Caminiti hit a go-ahead single in the 14th inning at Wrigley Field as San Diego woo for the fourth time in five games.

Expos 3, Cardinals 2 In Montreal, Mark Grudzielanek hit a game-tying homer in the seventh, and Rondell White had a bases-loaded single in the ninth as Montreal halted St. Louis' four-game winning streak.

Mark McGwire narrowly missed his 10th homer of the season when his fifth-inning drive hit the top of the left-field wall and dropped for a double.

Phillies 5, Reds 4 Tyler Green, the Philadelphia starter, survived a rocky first inning, and Doug Glavine homered to break a 4-4 tie in the fourth.

Marlins 3, Rockies 2 In Miami, Colorado managed a rare well-pitched game but lost when Derek Lee hit a two-out, two-run double for Florida in the eighth.

The Rockies, who have lost five of six and 13 of 16, held an opponent to fewer than four runs for just the fifth time this season.

Dodgers 9, Brewers 6 In Milwaukee, Mike Piazza homered twice, including a three-run shot in the ninth, as Los Angeles rallied from a 6-0 deficit and stopped the Brewers' five-game winning streak.

Braves 5, Diamondbacks 2 In Atlanta, John Smoltz had another strong outing in his second start of the season, and Michael Tucker and Javy Lopez homered as the Braves beat Arizona.

Smoltz, who underwent arthroscopic elbow surgery in December, struck out four and walked two.

Mets 10, Astros 7 Pinch-hitter Jim Taum hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give New York the victory over Houston.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	EAST DIVISION	Pct.	GB
New York	12	5.706	1/2
Boston	14	6.706	
Baltimore	18	6.400	2
Tampa Bay	10	4.554	3
Toronto	8	3.400	6
CENTRAL DIVISION	Cleveland	12	4.227
Kansas City	9	3.400	4 1/2
Minnesota	8	3.400	4 1/2
Chicago	7	3.389	4 1/2
Detroit	4	1.222	7 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE	EAST DIVISION	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	13	7.450	
New York	12	7.452	
Philadelphia	8	4.444	4 1/2
Montreal	6	3.316	6 1/2
Florida	4	1.400	7 1/2
CENTRAL DIVISION	St. Louis	13	6.684
Chicago	12	6.680	1/2
Houston	11	5.524	1 1/2
Cincinnati	9	4.450	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	8	4.400	5 1/2
WEST DIVISION	San Diego	15	4.789
San Francisco	10	3.500	5 1/2
Los Angeles	9	3.474	6
Colorado	7	1.333	7 1/2
Arizona	5	2.286	10

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000	000	000	0	0	0
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000	000	000	0	0	0
000	000	000	0	0	0
000	000	000	0	0	0
000	000	000	0	0	0
000	000	000	0	0	0
0					

THURSDAY RESULTS

athletes 6-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis 1-0	0	0	0	0	0		

CRICKET

Honam vs. Yakohama, ppd, rn Hiroshima vs. Yokohm, ppd, rn PACIFIC LEAGUE No games scheduled	Osaka New Jersey First Period 1 (Pace, J.) Gilmair (J.) O-Gardner (J.) 8-9-7-3-1 Ruffalo, J.L. (O) Bridges Philadelphia First Period Second Per Stromm (J.) L'Esclapart McGillis (J.) Scott (J.) Goetz (B) (B)
BASKETBALL	
EUROPEAN FINAL FOUR	
THIRD PLACE Benetton Treviso 94, Portland Belgard 89	
HOCKEY	
NHL PLAYOFFS	
FIRST ROUND (BEST-OF-7) WEDNESDAY RESULTS	
Bayton 0 1 0-1 Washington 1 1 1-3	
First Period: W-Bettows 1 (Barnard) Second Period: W-Gonchar 1 (Parks) Kryska, B. Khrushch (L) (Lafayette, Sennerton) (ppd). Third Period: W-Takamen 1 (Oates) (en. Shyns on goalie B. 12-7-8-28 W. 12-9-7-20. Goals: B-Barton, W-Kozby.	
(Continued on leads series 1-40)	
Phoenix 0 1 0-2 Detroit 3 2 3-6	
First Period: D-Lidstrom 1 (Zemman) Second Period: D-Murphy 1 (Lapointe) 3 P. Tuchsch (J) (Reynold, Reznick) 4 D-Feodorov 1 (Kador, Laporte) Second Period: D- McCarthy 1 (Lidstrom, Murphy) 3 O-Kacmar 2 (Lapointe) 7, D-Maloney 1 (Zemman) Third Period: D-Ranking 1 (Tuchsch, Tuchsch) D-Parkum 1 (Duchko) Shyns on goalie P. 6-6	

BASKETBALL

0 1 0 1-2	SHARHAN CRICKET	AUSTRALIA VS. NZ
0 0 1 0-1	WEDNESDAY, 16 SHAH.	WEDNESDAY, 16 SHAH.
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1	0 0 0 0-1
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TRANSITIONS

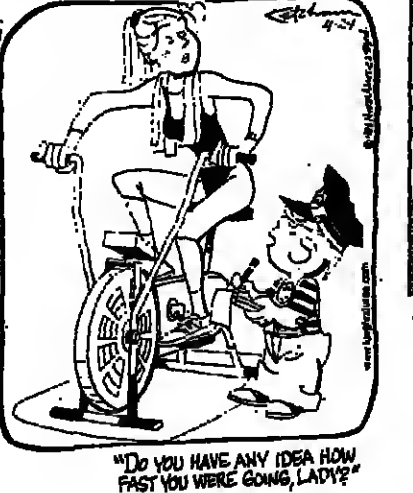
Northern Ireland 1, Switzerland 0
 Chile 2, Colombia 2
 Russia 1, Turkey 0

player scoring
 25 each other

AFRICA
 1996
 SOUTH AFRICA
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"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW FAST YOU WERE GOING, LADY?"

PEANUTS



HEY, CHARLES... MOM SAYS TO COME GET YOUR DOG...

GARFIELD



SLASH!

WIZARD OF ID



BAT SALESMAN

NON SEQUITUR



DO YOU HAVE PROBS LESS?

DOONESBURY



WELL, WEAR A LONGER ROBE AND NOBODY WILL NOTICE

JUMBLE

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BLONDIE



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EXCEPT YOU! WHY AREN'T YOU BUSY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

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POSTCARD

A Very Expensive Leak

By Glenn Collins
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The walls of New York are shedding beams and bricks these days with dangerous regularity. So it should come as no surprise that the 800-year-old walls at the Cloisters, the medieval museum on a hilltop in Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan, are showing signs of age. But how is crumbling rock at the Cloisters any different from the masonry on the rest of New York City's 800,000 buildings?

Well, crews can't just chip off the deteriorated parts and patch them up with concrete; the Cloisters contains remnants of chapels, cathedrals and monasteries from Spain and France, some of which date from the 12th century — by far the oldest enclosed structures in the city.

"Each block is treated as an individual work of art," said Michele Marincola, the conservator in residence at the Cloisters.

And as the Cloisters gears up to celebrate the 60th anniversary of its opening on May 10, it has also embarked on the most ambitious and expensive restoration project in its history.

One of the major dramas at the Cloisters these days is the battle against "water intrusion," as administrators delicately phrase it. While a leaky roof is fixed, the Cloisters' celebrated Unicorn Tapestries will be sent to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters' parent institution, for safekeeping. They will be displayed there from June 30 to Sept. 6.

And the museum has started a \$1 million investigation to track down a leak above the

Cloisters' main art treasury, a storeroom for 460 works. "Stone, so seemingly imperishable, turns out to be the most vulnerable of all surfaces," said Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan.

The modern, medieval-looking main structure of the Cloisters was built with steel and gridded with granite blocks in the 1930s. It incorporates ancient structures, but none of the old tiers of stones support load-bearing walls. Finding the leak means that the 85-foot-long roof that covers the Unicorn Tapestries must be dismantled, the 5,800 terra-cotta tiles must be removed, the underlying wood frame rebuilt and the tiles replaced. Total cost: \$400,000.

Meanwhile, the Met's architectural staff will attempt to unravel one of the most baffling mysteries at the Cloisters: the source of a leak from the West Terrace, a 2,700-square-foot expanse of granite paving stones overlooking the Hudson River. This terrace also happens to be the roof of the primary art storeroom.

The West Terrace leak is "an insidious threat, because it is invisible," said de Montebello. "There is no immediate crisis, but if the leak isn't addressed, then serious problems could develop."

The terrace will be flooded with six inches of water, said Nicholas Cameron, the Met's general manager for operations. If the museum is very lucky, and the leak is discovered to emanate from the edges of the terrace "the best case is that it will cost \$1 million" to fix, he said. But if it comes from the stones in the center of the terrace, "that's another million," he said uneasily.

Tori Amos: All About Image and Shock Value

By Jon Pareles
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Tori Amos takes pains with her image. As she rehearsed for her appearance on "The Late Show With David Letterman" a few weeks ago, she had her keyboard and piano moved to improve the camera angle, then pondered just how high her microphone should be tilted.

After she raised it and noted the level for the stage crew, a bystander asked whether lifting her head improved her vocals. "It's never about the music," she said with a laugh. "It's about the chin!"

Amos may be careful about her public face, but she isn't exactly inhibited. In her songs and her poses, control and abandon strike a fascinating, uneasy truce. For the cover of her album "Boys for Pele," Amos appeared mud-spattered and holding a gun and, in another photograph, nursing a piglet at her breast. The video clip for her new single, "Spark," shows her blindfolded, wrists tied behind her back, stumbling through an ominous countryside as she sings, "You say you don't want it again and again, but you don't really mean it."

On the three albums she has released since 1992, each selling at least a million copies, Amos has sung about God and about being raped, about masochism and murder, about callousness and transcendence. And in a conversation over a lunch, she was merrily unguarded about everything except the identity of her longtime boyfriend.

"The songs are really open," she said. "But there are things I'm really private about. People, I'm sure, will have a real chuckle about me saying that. Like, what is left?" Amos was in New York City for the final technical work on her new album, "From the Choirgirl Hotel," due for release on May 5.

Around her neck was a small crucifix dotted with rubies, an odd accessory for a Methodist pastor's

daughter who has bitterly rejected organized Christianity. "It's a rebellion against my rebellion," she said. "And it's really pretty, too. It's a great symbol, an ancient symbol. I love the blood. I love the passion."

From the beginning, Amos's songs have been wayward and volatile, full of mood swings and musical leaps. They are held together by her meticulous, classical piano technique, while her voice swoops from innocence to jaded sultriness, from bemusement to bitterness.

"I would change my clothes to be able to sing the songs on this album," she said. "Because you have to become the Sybil of songwriting. I've really been interested in allowing myself to be taken over by the characters in the songs."

"You have to change to allow the presence of the entities of these songs to come. For any songwriter to say they do it on their own, well, they must have a very lonely life. I have a very busy life because these girls are coming in and out all the time, since I was a little girl. I'm never really alone."

The songs are intimate, but Amos refuses to call them confessional. "I don't like that term, and I'll tell you why," she said. "When you confess, you're asking for anybody's approval."

Amos, 34, started playing the piano when she was two and a half years old. "I wanted to be a ballerina," she said. "But my thighs are as big as rhinoceroses and I have no time in my feet. All my time is in my hands." She was accepted at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore at age 5 and was expelled six years later for improvising too much. As a teenager, she sang Gershwin songs, her father's favorites, at piano bars.

She worked in Los Angeles with a rock band that had the unfortunate name Y Kant Tori Read, which released an album in 1988 before breaking up. After she moved to England in 1990, she began recording her own songs as she heard them: with her piano at the center,



Amos is careful about her public face, but not the least inhibited.

moving from hymns to classical filigree to bluesy vamps. Her first album, "Little Earthquakes," spoke to young women coming of age and torn between shame and desire. In a tangle of religion and sexuality, her songs' narrators were sometimes victimized, sometimes triumphant. "Every day I crucify myself," she sang in the album's first song.

Loyal fans followed her increasingly free-associative songs on her next two albums, "Under the Pink" in 1994 and "Boys for Pele" in 1996. The Internet buzzes with interpretations of lines like "The weasel squeaks faster than a seven-day week," Amos has such a widespread following in cyber-

space that she is releasing one new song, "Merman," only as a computer download.

Amos said her first album was like a diary; her second, like a painting, and her third like "a woman's journey across her own river." Her fourth is like a hotel, she said, the girls staying there are songs. "I saw the girls being like a singing group, because they're very independent, but they hang out together. They have their own family systems, they have their own family trees, but I did see them having margaritas by the pool. Sometimes they let me sing with them."

Many of Amos's lyrics on the new album remain oblique, amid recurring images of surrender, ad-

dition, lost babies and womanly power. One key to the songs, she said, is that she had a miscarriage in 1996. "I didn't write the record until that happened, and it was quite a shock. The songs were a huge part of me understanding my feelings," she said. "I had never appreciated life like that before."

Amos made her new album in Cornwall, England. Some of her new songs surround her piano with aggressive rhythms and electronic noise. "The effects are part of the psyche of each girl," she said. "I looked at the engineers and I said, 'All those funny knobs over there, do they do stuff?' They said, 'They do more stuff than you can imagine.' So I said, 'Let's do stuff.' It's sonic geometry."

Some of the songs muse over loss and guilt and forgiveness; others flaunt an assertive sexuality. "There's a thread of my life running through the songs, but it's a tiny little thread," she said.

"The songs never let me forget that. They let me know, as if they're saying, 'We live and breathe and exist, and you just happen to see us because of something that was happening in your life at the time.'"

"You can be anybody or anything in a song," she added. "Nobody controls what your relationship is in a song or who you are in it. And nobody owns it. I'm a person, I don't like confronting people. I'll do anything to not confront a situation. But as a writer, I confront Mother Teresa if the songs are taking me there."

One song, "She's Your Cocaine," puzzles over a man's attraction to a woman who will destroy him. "I've seen myself become quite angry because somebody that I love has been dragged through the streets emotionally," Amos said. "A vicious narcissist is hard for me to take. But a yummy narcissist, are you kidding? You're talking to one."

Cannes Film Festival's 1998 Lineup

The Associated Press

PARIS — The director Lars Von Trier will try for another Golden Palm at next month's Cannes Film Festival, competing with Ken Loach, Hal Hartley and John Turturro, the organizers said Thursday. Mike Nichols' "Primary Colors" and the new blockbuster "Godzilla," directed by Roland Emmerich, will be shown out of competition, the official festival list says.

Von Trier, who won the Golden Palm in 1996 for the heartwrenching love story "Breaking the Waves," is competing with "The Idiots."

Loach is in the running with "My Name Is Joe" and Hartley's new film "Henry Fool." Turturro is competing with "Iluminata," after starring in the Cannes-winning "Barton Fink" in 1991.

THE OFFICIAL SELECTION
May 12-24

IN COMPETITION:
"Corazon Iluminado" (Heart on Fire), Hector Babenco, Argentina
"Dance to My Song," Rolf de Heer, Australia
"The General," John Boorman, Britain

"Velvet Goldmine," Todd Haynes, Britain
"My Name Is Joe," Ken Loach, Britain
"La Vendetta de Rosas," (The Rose Vendetta), Victor Gavira, Colombia
"Idiotene," (Idiots), Lars Von Trier, Denmark
"Festen," (Family Party), Thomas Vinterberg, Denmark
"Ceux qui m'aiment prendront le train" (Those Who Love Me Will Take the Train), Patrice Chereau, France
"L'ecole de la chair" (The School of Flesh), Benoit Jacquot, France
"La Classe de neige" (Ski School), Claude Miller, France
"La Vie Revee des Anges," (The Dream Life of Angels), Erick Zanca, France
"Mia Eonillia Ke Mia Meri" (The Eternity of a Day), Theo Angelopoulos, Greece
"Aprite," (Nanni Moretti, Italy)
"La Vita e Bella" (Life is Beautiful), Roberto Benigni, Italy
"Khrushchov, My Car," Alexei Guerman, Russia
"The Flowers of Shanghai," Hou Hsiao-hsien, Taiwan
"The Hole," Tsai Ming-Liang, Taiwan
"Iluminata," John Turturro, U.S.
"Henry Fool," Hal Hartley, U.S.
"Claire Dolan," Lodge Kerrigan, U.S.
"Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," Terry Gilliam, U.S.

OUT OF COMPETITION:
"Primary Colors," Mike Nichols, U.S. (opening film)
"Kanto Sensei," Shinya Inomura, Japan
"Amelie," Manuel de Oliveira, Portugal
"Tango," Carlos Saura, Spain
"Goodbye Lover," Roland Joffe, U.S.
"Blues Brothers 2000," John Landis, U.S.
"Dark City," Alex Proyas, U.S.
"Godzilla," Roland Emmerich, U.S. (closing film)

PEOPLE

THE designer Tommy Hilfiger will launch a zeppelin to join a new line of sportswear. The high-tech blimp with his name on it will share airspace with those owned by Fuji and Goodyear, New York magazine reported. The Hilfiger aircraft is expected to appear this summer over various events around the country.

Steven Spielberg's stalker won a sentencing reprieve so his lawyer can challenge the "three strikes" provision that could send him to prison for life. Jonathan Norman was convicted last month of plotting to break into Spielberg's mansion and hold him and his family hostage. Rbonda Saunders, a deputy district attorney, is seeking the maximum sentence of 26 years to life in prison under California's "three strikes" law. Norman has two convictions stemming from an incident in which he plowed his Jeep into a group of pedestrians crossing a street.

Shirley Temple Black is angry that a videotape being released in honor of her birthday will not be bringing her a dime. Twentieth Century-Fox has released the "Shirley Temple Sing and Dance Along" video as a celebration of the "70th birthday of America's favorite sweetheart," but contends it does not need her permission. The tape includes some of her best work, including the "I Love to Dance in the Rain" number with Bill (Bojangles) Robinson.

Italian art restorers say they have discovered the first painting done in Rome by the 17th-century artist Simon Vouet, the French court painter to Louis XIII. "Good Luck" has been attributed to various painters of the Caravaggio school. But while it was undergoing restoration, Vouet's signature and a date, 1617, were found on the back, officials at the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica said.

Two Belgians who developed plants resistant to insects and a Japanese physicist who created an artificial crystal have been named winners of this year's Japan Prize, which recognizes scientific achievements around the world. The Nobel Prize winner Leo Esaki of Japan was honored for creating a crystal that led to other discoveries in many fields, including transistors and magnetic recording devices. Jozef Schell, of the Max Planck Institute in Germany, and Marc Van Montagu, of the Laboratory of Genetics at the University of Ghent, will also share in the 50 million yen (\$383,000) that comes with each prize.

Garth Brooks has won his fifth top entertainer trophy from the Academy of Country Music, but he was trumped by Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, who won top song, single, video and vocal event honors for "It's Your Love."



OUCH — Shasha Ali showing off the surfboard of his friend John Forse after Forse survived an attack by a shark off Oregon.



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